Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Aldana on Congress Preparations in Pinar del Rio *[Havana TV]* 1
Trade Official Questions Western Economic Policy *[Havana Radio]* 1
Soldiers in Angola Send Letter to Fidel Castro *[Havana TV]* 1
Brazilians Extend Offer To Offset U.S. Embargo *[Havana Radio]* 1
Vietnamese Communist Official Receives Robaina *[Havana TV]* 1
Iranian Health Minister Signs Agreement *[Havana TV]* 1
Dominican Communist Leader Comments on Crisis *[Havana TV]* 2
Visiting Mozambican Minister Tours Isle of Youth *[Havana TV]* 2
Escalona Reguera Receives Ugandan Dignitary *[Havana Radio]* 2
DPRK Celebrates 30th Anniversary of Relations *[Havana TV]* 2
Council of State Awards Medal to Brazilian Envoy *[Havana TV]* 2

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Regional Countries Sponsor UN Drug Resolution *[CANA]* 3

Bahamas

Diplomatic Relations Established With Chile *[Nassau Radio]* 3

Grenada

Brathwaite Announces 'Major Cabinet Reshuffle' *[CANA]* 3

Haiti

Bomb Kills 7, Injures 30 at Election Meeting 4
Aristide Makes Statement *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4
Casualty Count Increases *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
CEP Member Reacts to Bombing *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Aristide Backers Demonstrate *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
ANDP Issues Communique *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Lafontant Denies Responsibility *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Education Ministry Communique on School Closure *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Interior Ministry Bans Public Demonstrations *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
'Gangsters' Attack MOP Building 5 Dec *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
CEP Claims 'Danger' Threatens Elections *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7

Jamaica

Venezuelan Company To Buy 50 Percent of Petrojam *[CANA]* 7

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson Reelected Unopposed as NAR Leader *[CANA]* 7
Venezuela Agreement Boosts Petroleum Production *[CANA]* 7
Trintopec To Spend $280 Million on Exploration *[CANA]* 8
New Party To Boycott Parliamentary By-Election *[CANA]* 8

MEXICO

Solana Addresses Senate on Free Trade Accord *[NOTIMEX]* 9
Yucatan Electoral Commission Announces Results *[Mexico City TV]* 9

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Pacas Declines Comments on FMLN Truce Details *[San Salvador Radio]* 10
FMLN Vows To Continue Downing Planes *[San Salvador Radio]* 10
Army-Rebel Clash Leaves 2 Civilians Dead *[AFP]* 11
MPSC Leader Demands Security for Elections *[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 4 Dec]* 11

Guatemala

Defense Minister on Transfer of Soldiers *[ACAN]* 11

Honduras

Acting Army Chief Views Cantarero Resignation *[Tegucigalpa Radio]* 12

Nicaragua

Communique Notes Paris Club Economic Backing *[Managua Radio]* 13
National Bank Announces New Cordoba Devaluation *[Managua Radio]* 13
Retired EPS Officers Discuss Demands *[BARRICADA 2 Dec]* 14
'Let Us Save Democracy Movement' Discussed *[BARRICADA 3 Dec]* 14
Telcor Management, Union To Resume Negotiations *[Managua Radio]* 15

Panama

Linares: U.S. Intervention 'Lesser of Two Evils' *[Panama City TV]* 15
Assembly Resolution Condemns 'Coup Attempt' *[CRITICA LIBRE 6 Dec]* 16
'Exclusive' Herrera Statements Revealed *[EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE 6 Dec]* 16
CRITICA LIBRE Sums Up 4-5 Dec Events *[6 Dec]* 17
Editorials Discuss Herrera Incident *[LA PRENSA, etc.]* 18
Public Force Members Implicated in Herrera Escape *[Panama City TV]* 18
Journalists Condemn Request for U.S. Assistance *[Hamburg DPA]* 19
Labor Leaders Reportedly Go Into Hiding *[AFP]* 19
Government Proposes Firing Striking Workers *[Panama City TV]* 20
Rosas on Punishment for Strike Leaders *[Panama City TV]* 21

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem Evaluates Bush Visit, Praises Talks *[Buenos Aires TV]* 22
Demonstration Protesting Bush Visit Staged *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 22
Disturbance in Congress During Bush Visit *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 6 Dec]* 23
Support for Military Action in Gulf Proposed *[CLARIN 3 Dec]* 23
Menem Recounts Actions During Rebellion *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 24
Bonnet Claims Rebellion Threatened Presidency *[TELAM]* 24
Rebellion Leader To Face Court Martial *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 6 Dec]* 25

Brazil

U.S. Consulate Vehicle Attacked in Rio de Janeiro *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 25
President Collor Speaks at Bush Reception 3 Dec *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 4 Dec]* 26
Collor Address on Treaty With Argentina *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 29 Nov]* 28

Chile

Aylwin Dinner Speech Honors President Bush *[Santiago TV]* 29
Senators Approve Bush Speech to Congress *[Santiago Radio]* 31
Deputies React to Bush Address *[Santiago Radio]* 31
Bilateral Free Trade Talks With U.S. Announced *[Santiago Radio]* 32
Officials Assess Meetings With U.S. Team *[Santiago Radio]* 32
Pinochet Expresses Thanks for Bush Recognition *[Santiage Radio]* 33
Air Force Chief, Foreign Minister View Bush Visit *[Santiago Radio]* 33
Anti-Bush Demonstration Held in Valparaiso *[Santiage Radio]* 33
Communists Claim Bush Harms National Dignity *[Santiago Radio]* 33
Students Demonstrate Against Bush Visit *[Santiage Radio]* 33
20 Arrested in Anti-Bush Santiago Protest *[Santiago Radio]* 34
Police Track Stolen Diplomatic License Plates *[Santiago Radio]* 34
FPMR Claims To Bomb MacDonalds Restaurant *[Santiago Radio]* 34
Mormon Churches Attacked; No Casualties *[Santiago Radio]* 34
Ministers Brief Journalists on Letelier Case *[Santiago Radio]* 34
Aylwin To Request Special Prosecutor *[Santiago Radio]* 35

Ecuador

* Social Christian Party Reiterates Opposition 35
* Founder Dissents *[EL UNIVERSO 19 Oct]* 35
* Party Tactics Assessed *[EL UNIVERSO 19 Oct]* 35

Paraquay

Rodriguez Speaks With Menem; Criticizes Rebels *[ABC COLOR 4 Dec]* 36
Justice Minister Urges Lifting GSP Measures *[ULTIMA HORA 3 Dec]* 37
Union Leader Says U.S. GSP Sanction 'Unjust' *[ULTIMA HORA 1 Dec]* 37
Kuwaiti Congressional Delegation Visits Congress *[ABC COLOR 5 Dec]* 37
Briefs Press on Gulf Situation *[NOTICIAS 5 Dec]* 38
Meets With Rodriguez *[ABC COLOR 4 Dec]* 38
PCP Criticizes Soviet Position on Iraq *[ABC COLOR 5 Dec]* 38
Itaipu Workers Decide Not To Strike *[NOTICIAS 5 Dec]* 39

Peru

Torres on Drug Trafficking, Human Rights *[Lima TV]* 39
Fujimori Says Military Courts To Try Terrorists *[Lima TV]* 40
Police Forces Break Up Teachers' Demonstration *[Lima TV]* 40
Helfer Tenders 'Irrevocable' Resignation *[Lima TV]* 40
Marchand on Coup Attempts in Argentina, Panama *[Lima TV]* 40
* Fujimori's 'Authoritarian' Style Assessed *[CARETAS 29 Oct]* 40
* Fujimori Decisionmaking Style Assessed *[CARETAS 5 Nov]* 41
* APRA Senator Discusses Party Dissension *[EXPRESO 28 Oct]* 42
* Emigration Detailed; 'Grave' Consequences Noted *[EL COMERCIO 18 Oct]* 43

Venezuela

200 Student Demonstrators Protest Bush Visit 44
Burn Bush Effigy, U.S. Flags *[AFP]* 44
Fired at by Police *[AFP]* 44
8 Injured in Protests *[Hamburg DPA]* 44

Cuba

Aldana on Congress Preparations in Pinar del Rio

FL0612184890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The subjects that will be discussed during the Pinar del Rio provincial party meeting scheduled for 2 February were announced during a meeting held yesterday. Among the subjects to be discussed are the results of the call for the fourth party congress, the assessment of the food program, fulfillment of the special period measures, and an analysis of the responsibilities of the party members, cadres, and the rest of the members of society. Those are the topics that will be submitted for consideration by the people of Pinar del Rio. An extensive debate took place regarding the subjects the top political leadership in Pinar del Rio will examine.

In the closing remarks, Carlos Aldana Escalante referred to the measures the party is already implementing in the entire country regarding structure, methods, and styles of work, taking into consideration the views expressed by the Cuban people during the discussion of the call of the fourth congress. Aldana, who is secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, noted that the committee organizing the fourth congress has examined and considered every single suggestion made by the population.

Trade Official Questions Western Economic Policy

FL0612004290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0010 GMT 6 Dec 90

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] We cannot allow others to attempt to impose on us any particular model, or the politics of one or another country; we have chosen our system because our people considered it best, Alberto Betancourt Roa, Cuban vice minister of foreign trade, said in Brussels today.

In a meeting there, the Cuban representative spoke about unfair international economic relations and expressed reservations as to the intentions of industrialized nations with regard to opening markets to developing countries.

Soldiers in Angola Send Letter to Fidel Castro

FL0412131390 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Brigade General Samuel C. Rodiles Planas, chief of the Cuban military mission in Angola, on behalf of the comrades composing that mission, has sent a message to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro on the occasion of the 34th anniversary of the landing of the Granma yacht and the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] Day.

In the letter, the combatants express their deepest and most sincere congratulations and ratify that: You can be confident that, in the combat post we are, we will fulfill with honor and responsibility the mission assigned to us and that we will continue with the example of heroism, sacrifice, and total devotion of those who founded and made possible our revolution, of those who fell in the fulfillment of their duties, and that we will return victorious, as you have taught us.

Brazilians Extend Offer To Offset U.S. Embargo

FL0512004290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Dec 90

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Brazilian businessmen stated here in this capital today that they are willing to increase trade with Cuba in order to help the country cope with the U.S. embargo.

Representatives from the (Vaz) Airline, which has been making flights from Havana since 1987, from the Brazilian Health Secretariat [as heard] and from a Sao Paulo electronic components company all stated that they are seeking to raise the level of relations with Cuba.

Vietnamese Communist Official Receives Robaina

FL0512022090 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Vietnamese leader Dao Duy Tung, member of the Politburo of the Vietnamese Communist Party, received Roberto Robaina, alternate member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], and top leader of the PCC's youth organization, in Hanoi today.

Duy Tung praised Cuba for its ideological strength at this time, and sent a greeting from the general secretary of the Vienamese Communist Party to Cuban President Fidel Castro.

For his part, Robaina echoed the historic phrase used by the Cuban head of state 20 years ago, when he said: For Vietnam, we are prepared to give even our own blood. He added that Vietnam can fully count on the Cuban youth when the time comes to fulfill that pledge.

Iranian Health Minister Signs Agreement

FL0512124290 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Dr. Iraj Fazel, minister of health of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the delegation accompanying him, returned to their country after a four- day stay in Cuba. Shortly before leaving Cuba, the Iranian public health minister and Dr. Julio Teja, his Cuban counterpart, signed an important cooperation agreement between the two countries. The protocol provides for the exchange of experience, technical advice, and training by Cuban experts, and the purchase of medicines and medical equipment in 1991. In addition, [words indistinct] in the area of gynecology and obstetrics will provide their services in that country, [passage indistinct].

Dominican Communist Leader Comments on Crisis

FL0612155890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Narciso Isa Conde, secretary general of the Dominican Communist Party, has stated that his country is going through the worst crisis of the last decades. Isa Conde, who is visiting Cuba, said the popular movement has gone from economic demands, to political strikes, to recent demands of a change of president. He added, that talks for agreements with the IMF are also rejected.

Later, Isa Conde explained that the Dominican Republic is facing an almost 30 percent unemployment rate. Half of the economically active population is underemployed and a million people are illiterate. The Dominican leader said the economic adjustment programs implemented after the May elections have reduced the sympathy the government could have had.

Visiting Mozambican Minister Tours Isle of Youth

FL0512041690 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] The high-level Mozambican Armed Forces delegation visiting Cuba, at the invitation of Army General Raul Castro Ruz, has toured the Isle of Youth.

Army General Alberto Joaquim Chipande, Mozambican defense minister, met with students from his country studying on the Isle of Youth. Chipande toured the installations of the 28 January School in the countryside where he observed the life and studies of scholarship students.

In his talk with the students, the Mozambican defense minister urged them to prepare themselves professionally for contributing to the development of the country, in response to Cuba's effort to educate them.

In statements for this newscast, Army Gen. Chipande commented on Cuba's decision to vote against the UN Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq.

[Begin Chipande recording, in Portuguese with simultaneous Spanish translation] I believe it was right, because to reach this decision, Cuba meditated, considered, and weighed all the consequences. Possible isolation? I do not believe so, because I am here. If Cuba were isolated, I would not be here. [end recording]

The Mozambican minister toured the old Modelo Prison early, which today is a national monument. It is the place where Fidel and the other attackers of the Moncada Garrison were imprisoned.

Army Gen. Chipande was received this morning by Armando Manresa Gonzalez, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and first secretary of the PCC on the Isle of Youth.

Escalona Reguera Receives Ugandan Dignitary

FL0612015190 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0014 GMT 6 Dec 90

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, today received Moses Kikongo, vice president of the National Resistance Movement and chairman of the National Resistance Council of the Republic of Uganda.

DPRK Celebrates 30th Anniversary of Relations

FL0712032590 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Diverse activities were held in Pyongyang today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of economic relations and scientific-technical cooperation between the DPRK and Cuba. The signing of the first trade protocol between the island and the fraternal Asian nation in 1960 by the contemporary Industry Minister Commander Ernesto Che Guevara marked the beginning of that cooperation.

In the wake of Cuban President Fidel Castro's visit to the DPRK and his meeting with Kim Il-song in March 1986, trade and cooperation have continuously increased in conformity with the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed by the two heads of state. This year, the exchange of products between the two countries increased by 2.7 million pesos over 1989.

Council of State Awards Medal to Brazilian Envoy

FL0712024590 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Italo Zappa, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil in our country, today received the medal of friendship conferred upon him by the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba. Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca pinned the medal on the Brazilian diplomat in fulfillment of Agreement 1536, approved by the State Council at the request of the Foreign Relations Ministry.

Italo Zappa arrived in Cuba in October, 1986. He is the first Brazilian ambassador to Cuba since the two countries reestablished diplomatic relations.

At the decoration ceremony, emphasis was placed on the valuable services tendered by the Brazilian representative in our country in reflection of the ties of friendship existing between our peoples and government. Italo Zappa gave thanks for the high distinction, which he said is another symbol of the Cuban people's generosity. He described himself as those people's friend and eternal servant.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Regional Countries Sponsor UN Drug Resolution

FL0312162890 Bridgetown CANA in English 2133 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec. 2, CANA—Barbados is co-sponsoring a resolution at the United Nations calling on member countries which have not yet acceded to the UN convention against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, to make a commitment soon, the Sunday SUN reported.

The convention which was approved in 1988 and became effective in early November, seeks to improve international cooperation aimed at curbing drug trafficking and strengthening laws and other systems that would help restrict the international flow of drugs.

The resolution is being sponsored by approximately 50 countries, and it calls on the world body to take steps to boost the work of the international narcotics control board and the UN's division of narcotic drugs.

In another resolution, the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago are appealing to other UN member states to step up their own anti-drug efforts and promote the global programme of action against illicit drug activities.

Bahamas

Diplomatic Relations Established With Chile

FL0412191590 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Diplomatic relations between the Bahamas and the Republic of Chile at the level of non-resident ambassadors became effective today, as announced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Her Excellency Margaret MacDonald, ambassador to the United States and permanent representative to the Organization of American States, has been designated non-resident ambassador to the Republic of Chile, and his Excellency Hernando Mulo, permanent representative of Chile to the Organization of American States, has been designated non-resident ambassador to our country.

A joint communique, issued by the Government of the Bahamas and the Republic of Chile, says they are convinced the best way to strengthen peace and international security is through understanding, cooperation, and friendly relations between nations. Both governments also expressed confidence that diplomatic relations will contribute to the strengthening of mutual cooperation in the economic, commercial, and cultural areas of our countries, which share the same objectives and goals of promoting peace, democracy, justice, and solidarity in our relations, in accordance with the rules and principles of international law.

Grenada

Brathwaite Announces 'Major Cabinet Reshuffle'

FL0412131090 Bridgetown CANA in English 0046 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Report by Richard Simon]

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Dec 3, CANA—Grenada's Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite on Monday announced a major cabinet reshuffle which saw five ministers being switched to new responsibilities, and the appointment of a new minister of state. Brathwaite, at a news conference, said the changes effective January 2, 1991, were designed "to increase efficiency in government operations." It was the first cabinet reshuffle since Brathwaite's National Democratic Congress (NDC) took office nine months ago.

Brathwaite gave up foreign affairs but added a new portfolio of personnel and management to his other responsibilities of home affairs, national security, information, and Carriacou and Petit Martinique affairs.

Agriculture Minister Ben Jones was named foreign minister. In addition, he will have responsibility for the newly created portfolios of Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] affairs and political unification affairs, the latter being related to Grenada's involvement in an initiative with Dominica, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia to form a political union.

Phinsley St. Louis, currently the minister of communications, works and public utilities, replaces Jones at the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Food, and Fisheries.

Kenny Lalsingh, the minister of health and housing, goes to communications, works, and public utilities. He is being replaced at health and housing by Michael Andrews, the current minister of labour, who adds the new environment portfolio.

Taking over at the Ministry of Labour, Cooperatives, Social Security, and Community Development is Edzel Thomas, currrently minister of state in the Ministry of Communications, Works, and Public Utilities. Thomas, who was elected on an opposition Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) ticket, defected to the NDC to provide the parliamentary majority needed to form a government after inconclusive general elections last March 13. The NDC had won seven of the 15 parliamentary seats, with the remaining eight divided among the GULP and two other parties.

Senator Tillman Thomas, currently parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Local Government, was promoted to minister of state in the Ministry of Labour, Cooperatives, Social Security, and Community Development.

The following ministers remain in their positions: George Brizan, finance, economic affairs, trade, and industry; Francis Alexis, attorney-general, legal affairs,

local government; Joan Purcell, tourism, civil aviation, and women's affairs; Senator Carlisle Glean, education, culture, youth, and sports.

In other changes, Dr. Lawrence Gibbs, who defected from the GULP earlier this year, was named parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sports.

Senator Dennis Noel, currently parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was transferred to agriculture. He is a former chief agriculture officer here.

Parliamentary secretary Alleyne Walker, a member of the National Party which Ben Jones led in the last election as prime minister, was moved to health from labour.

Rumours had been circulating here that the changes were inspired by Dr. Francis Alexis, one of the ruling party's two deputy leaders.

"These changes are out of personal conviction," said Brathwaite, apparently seeking to put the rumours to rest. "They remain my responsibility."

Haiti

Bomb Kills 7, Injures 50 at Election Meeting

Aristide Makes Statement

FL0612132790 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in French 1130 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Acts of violence were committed in the capital yesterday. The highest point of the violence was a bomb attack during a meeting organized by the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD]. The consequences were great. Already seven have died and about 50 were wounded. Is the future of the electoral process compromised because of this? Let us listen to the statements of the FNCD presidential candidate, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

[Begin Aristide recording] When brothers die, when sisters die, or when brothers are wounded, when sisters are wounded, it is all of us together who are struck. As the saying goes: When a nose is struck there are tears in the eyes. It is all of us who feel that we are in mourning. It is all of us who are saddened. We extend our sympathies to the victims' parents.

We share their sorrow. We feel that we are stricken as much as they, even if they are not from the same womb as we. [passage omitted]

This could have been avoided. How could it have been avoided? One thing that had to be done was to arrest Roger Lafontant, which we had been asking for for so long. The other thing that had to be done was to obstruct the steps taken by Manigat and the Court of Appeal [the supreme court of Haiti; a reference to the proceedings Manigat has instituted against the Provisional Electoral Council], who have been organizing trouble in the country for so long. [passage omitted]

Lately Roger Lafontant has made threats, big threats. Lately, other politicians, members of their parties, have spoken threatening words. Still we wait until the people's blood flows again; we wait until the tears run from parents' eyes again; we wait for bloodshed. Now how can we accept what they tell us, that they are going to begin the investigation? We are tired of hearing that the inquest is going on. Tonight, at this peak of mobilization, on top of this mountain of mourning, at the apex of this mountain of national sadness, we Haitians, who are already together, demand the arrest of Roger Lafontant as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

If all the judicial authorities and those who are responsible for the arrest of Roger Lafontant had already done so, however, would we be in mourning tonight? Will we not be in more and more mourning, will we not have more suffering, if they do not [arrest him] very shortly? [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, all of you who feel that this blow hurts you, you must clearly tell them that this blow, which is another 29 November [election massacre of 29 Nov 1987], will not make us give up, because if we give up now, it will not be 10 people they kill, it will not be 50 people they wound. It will be hundreds of us that they kill. It will be hundreds of dead bodies and wounded that we will count. [passage omitted]

We ask all people all over the country, who might have been in trouble or divided because of their specific political affiliation, to look at the danger that threatens everybody, and to stick together, to move forward together, so that the Americans who are in the country, the Frenchmen who are in the country, the UN organizations, the OAS, and all other diplomatic forces and foreign observers can take note of our position and give us their help. If Lafontant is not arrested, we will know there are others behind Lafontant, or behind the head of [word indistinct].

We are not children. Our eyes can see; they have tears flowing from them, they are stricken, but they do not want to weep any more. Tonight, therefore, while the country is mobilized, we must continue, with order and discipline—certainly with order and discipline—we must go on, so that those who create disorder and who kill people get what they are looking for: a definitive setting aside, to be totally put aside.

I will end now. I will start again tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, together with FNCD, together with all the people who are in Avalanche, together with Haiti, whose people's blood I refuse to allow to continue flowing. I refuse to see mounting bodies. I say to you: Make do. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Casualty Count Increases

FL0612165790 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] At least seven people died and 52 were injured after an explosion occurred following a meeting held by Aristide, presidential candidate for National Front for Change and Democracy, in Petionville last night. All of the victims are at the public general hospital. This explosion occured while the electricity was cut off for about two minutes in Petionville. Two seriously injured victims died during the night at the hospital. According to the information we have obtained, the average age of those people injured is about 20. Deep feelings of emotion were expressed all night long, especially at the general hospital in Port-au-Prince, where many people went to see a relative or a friend who was a victim of the slaughter that occurred last night in Petionville.

CEP Member Reacts to Bombing

FL0612203390 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] On the occasion of this explosion, this bloody explosion that occurred last night in Petionville, we have the reaction of Philippe Jules, a member of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP].

[Begin Jules recording] [Words indistinct] on PVS [private television station on which Lafontant made some statements this week] the day before yesterday, I was almost sure that the men [not further identified] would move to action. During their silence, they were preparing their work and furbishing their arms. Now we think that the security commission and the Haitian Army have the opportunity to neutralize the people who are sowing disorder in the country, the people who have a warrant in their hands [as heard], the people who are responsible for 29 November [1987 massacre] and who returned to the country exactly at election time. Thus, the matter is not within a legal context anymore. It is something that they are throwing in your eyes. It is powder that they are throwing in your eyes so that they can do what they want to do with you. [end recording]

Aristide Backers Demonstrate

FL0612202590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Report by correspondent Rotchille at the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince—live]

[Text] Reverend Jean-Bertrand Aristide just arrived at the Public General Hospital. He was greeted by hundreds of supporters demonstrating in favor of his presidential candidacy in the country. They are singing: Death or not, Aristide will be president on 16 December; elections or not, Aristide is already president. The crowd is also asking for the arrests of Roger Lafontant and Leslie Francois Manigat, two political figures cited by Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide last night in statements made to the press just after the slaughter.

With regard to the injured victims, it is very difficult right now to enter the hospital room. We were able to interview a surgeon, however, who informed us that the hospital was able to handle the crisis last night with no problem. The doctors received a great deal of help from the private sector, from people who came last night bringing plasma and medicine to assist the slaughter victims. This doctor told me that 10 persons had had surgery and that lead was found inside those people.

Police are blocking the entrance to the hospital. Father Aristide is inside, greeting the victims, but journalists are banned from going in. Some of the victims were taken to other private health centers in the metropolitan area. I noticed that some parents and those who lost nieces and cousins in the slaughter last night in Petionville were crying bitterly.

ANDP Issues Communique

FL0612233590 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1800 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Communique issued by the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress (ANDP) on 6 December; place not given]

[Text] The ANDP notes that since the beginning of this electoral campaign, it has been necessary to show good sense, calmness, and a spirit of tolerance. Once again, innocent citizens were the victims of an unjustifiable act of aggression yesterday, Wednesday, 5 December, in Petionville.

The ANDP offers its sympathy to the relatives of the victims and encourages its supporters to offer their services to the Red Cross to assist the many wounded. The ANDP is asking its supporters and the people in general to keep cool heads and not give in to any provocations. The future of democracy for which we have been struggling for about five years will depend on the sense of responsibility we show in the face of the threats that definitely exist now.

The ANDP is renewing its appeal to reason so that the electoral process may continue. Political stability will not be guaranteed in Haiti without a legitimate government of national unity.

Lafontant Denies Responsibility

FL0712005190 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Report on statement by former Minister Roger Lafontant on 6 December; place not given]

[Text] [Begin Lafontant recording] After coming back to Haiti, I founded a party called the URN, Union for National Reconciliation. My strategy is nonviolence; we never use violence on anyone. I find it very strange that [presidential candidate Jean-Bertrande] Aristide can

state that this [the 5 December bombing attack] is Dr. Lafontant's fault. He must come up with tangible proof. He cannot just dream one day that Roger Lafontant did something and decide to accuse me. He must come up with tangible proof.

I can say that I was driving my car in Plaine when I heard what happened. Since I returned, I have always recommended nonviolence, respect for differences, so that everyone can express himself freely.

We think that Father Aristide went very far himself when he went to Cap-Haitien and said that he would burn everybody, all Macoutes and all military men; that an avalanche would come and nothing would be left. That is what can be called a threat. When someone says he will burn everybody, that he will destroy society, that is threatening. I never threatened anyone. As a responsible leader, I cannot fold my arms and watch Aristide destroy society. I try to mobilize the electorate, so that the people will not vote for a crazy person, a demon such as Father Aristide. I never made an attempt on Aristide's life.

Furthermore, why is it only now that he is accusing us? It is those individuals' profession to act indirectly when they know that they cannot attack people directly. They accuse the other person. That is exactly what happened.

Unfortunately for Aristide, the Haitian people will not be taken in by his statements accusing such and such a person. He attacked the people's courts, stating that the country must have justice. He attacks Manigat and everyone else. It is inconceivable that someone could have gone to drop a bomb at night in that area. Father Aristide set up his own show and then accused other people. Moreover, he is accustomed to such actions. Everyone knows that. [end recording]

According to Roger Lafontant, Father Aristide accused him of this attack because he had criticized Aristide's candidacy in an analysis on television when he criticized the CEP [Provision Electoral Council] for accepting Aristide's candidacy, which he said was not in conformity with the law. However, the newspaper PETIT-SAMEDI SOIR, the organ of the URN, Roger Lafontant's party, in its latest edition reinforced its threats against the electoral process. After severely criticizing all sectors in the country and abroad who are concerned about the elections, the newspaper stated that those elections might occur in bloodshed and sorrow, "in a pool covered with a red and purple sheet."

Education Ministry Communique on School Closure

FL0612223790 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1855 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Communique issued by Acting Haitian Minister of Education Pierre C. Labissiere in Port-au-Prince on 6 December]

[Text] The Ministry of National Education, Youth, and Sports advises teachers, parents, students, and the general public that the courses for the first quarter of the academic year 1990-1991 will end on Friday, 7 December, at the latest. It takes advantage of this opportunity to ask all school directors and faculty deans and all other superior [teaching] institutions to take the necessary steps to announce the commencement of Christmas vacation. It still remains, of course, agreed that the exams of the first quarter, which are being interrupted, will be completed when classes resume. This communique is effective 7 December and was signed in Port-au-Prince by Pierre C. Labissiere, acting minister of national education.

Interior Ministry Bans Public Demonstrations

FL0612230390 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1950 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Communique issued by the Interior Ministry on 6 December]

[Text] The Interior Ministry advises that any and all street demonstrations are forbidden throughout the national territory until this order is rescinded.

The ministry, however, advises the candidates for elected positions that they remain free to hold their meetings in appropriate places, but they must first inform the competent authorities, especially the communal administration and the police, 48 hours in advance and provide the place, day, date, and time.

The Interior Ministry appeals to the candidates and their partisans to show appropriate and moderate behavior and to avoid any and all incitement to violence or disorder.

'Gangsters' Attack MOP Building 5 Dec

FL0612201290 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Excerpts] At around 0340 on 5 December, a group of gangsters armed with pikes, sticks, and guns entered the MOP [Movement for the Organization of the Country] building, located in Delmas, to turn the place upside down, threaten, and mistreat the party members present at this time. We met Mr. Jean-Max Andre, secretary general of the MOP: [passage omitted with indistinct portions]

[Begin Andre recording] They attacked supporters who were outside the building. They beat them up. One of them is seriously injured [passage indistinct] they went inside the building and destroyed chairs and glass windows. While they were doing this they said: If you are supporting Aristide, this is for you and for him. Then they disappeared into the nearby streets. [end recording]

CEP Claims 'Danger' Threatens Elections

FL0612202090 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] issued a press release dated 5 December, advising the Haitian people that danger threatens the electoral process and the 7 February 1986 conquest. The note adds that the people must avoid following some incompetent candidates for elective positions. These candidates want to participate in the elections but they do not conform to the electoral law and use radio stations and TV to declare the unconstitutionality of the electoral law. As such, there is a campaign of systematic disinformation which is trying to create confusion and mix up the cards.

The note continues by saying that Manigat, as a rejected candidate, knows very well that the electoral law is not unconstitutional. He declared his candidacy under such a law but is now rejecting it. Therefore, the CEP is advising people of the danger that threatens the electoral process.

The press release is four pages long and is dated Wednesday, 5 December.

Jamaica

Venezuelan Company To Buy 50 Percent of Petrojam

FL0512201790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1911 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec. 5, CANA—The Jamaican Government is to sell 50 percent of the shares in Petrojam, the state-owned oil refinery, to Lagoven, a Venezuelan company, according to a local publication.

INSIGHT magazine, a privately published newsletter, quoted unnamed sources as saying that negotiations for the sale were almost completed. The asking price is U.S. $60 million, the magazine reported. It said a team from Jamaica, including Bank of Jamaica Governor G. Arthur Brown, Dr. Peter Phillips of the office of the prime minister, and Mayer Matalon, one of Prime Minister Michael Manley's close advisors, would visit Venezuela early this month.

Commenting on the proposed sale, Mining and Energy Minister Horace Clarke said a suggestion had been made to the government, but "nothing had jelled yet." The sale is said to be dictated by the need of the government to earn foreign exchange to meet the December performance test of the International Monetary Fund. The government had earlier sold its remaining shares in the island's sole communication company, Telecommunications of Jamaica, to the British giant, Cable and Wireless, for U.S. $42 million.

The Jamaica Government acquired the former Esso refinery in October 1982 after negotiations between the government and the company on a pricing formula broke down. Esso then offered the refinery to the government. The refinery has a production capacity of 36,000 barrels per day.

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson Reelected Unopposed as NAR Leader

FL0312141090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1323 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 3, CANA—Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson has been returned unopposed as the political leader of Trinidad and Tobago's ruling party, the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), for a second time. A party release said that at the close of nominations for party posts, at the end of November, the post of political leader and five others were unchallenged.

The highlight of the election of officers next Sunday at the party's annual conference is the fight for the post of party chairman. Incumbent chairman, Energy Minister Hubert Atwell, is being challenged by San Fernando Mayor Dr. Romesh Mootoo, Environment Minister Lincoln Myers, and former London High Commissioner Mervyn Assam.

Venezuela Agreement Boosts Petroleum Production

FL0312210590 Bridgetown CANA in English 2038 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec. 3, CANA—Implementation of a Trinidad-Venezuela petroleum processing agreement has helped push throughput [as received] at two local refineries to the highest September level since 1985.

The Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc) said in its newsletter, BULLETIN, that its two refineries had achieved a crude oil throughput [as received] of 134,221 barrels per day (bpd) in September. According to the latest issue of BULLETIN, the achievement was mainly due to the start of processing of Lago Treco-m [as received] crude at the Point Fortin Refinery on September 18, as a result of agreement between Trintoc and the Magraven Company of Venezuela.

The start-up of processing under the agreement accounted for 16,362 barrels per calendar day, Trintoc said. The record achievement was also helped by an increased intake of crude condensate from the Trinidad and Tobago Marine Company (Trintomar).

BULLETIN also said the intake of Venezuelan Lago Cinco crude for processing under the Trintoc/Maraven lube oil processing agreement was scheduled to start at the Point-a-Pierre refinery.

Trintopec To Spend $280 Million on Exploration

FL0512202090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1913 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec. 5, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago Petroleum Company (Trintopec) will spend about $280 million (one TT dollar equals 23.5 U.S. cents) in oil exploration activity next year, according to Exploration Manager Dave Lutchman. He said the company's involvement in natural gas may also increase depending on the conclusions of a major study on the international future of natural gas.

The increased exploration is part of the company's five-year strategic plan announced by Lutchman. The oil company plans to modernise and upgrade its technology to expand production to deeper strata. Over the next five years, it will make significant investment in training of personnel, and participate in the development of a local research and development centre, the spokesman reported.

Lutchman told reporters that the strategic plan has been on the drawing board since 1987.

New Party To Boycott Parliamentary By-Election

FL0512204590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1952 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec. 5, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's newest party, the Movement for Social Transformation (Motion), says it is not interested in a mid-December by-election to fill a seat in Parliament.

"It is the very strong view of Motion that the Diego Martin Central by-election, regardless of its result, will not this time allow any political party to deal with the fundamental issues," the party said. "The population is alienated from traditional politics; they do not trust, nor do they have confidence in the parties. There is a huge gap between the government and the people. This is the nature of the crisis," Motion charged in a statement. Instead, it will begin a programme of political education and mobilisation, throughout the country, it reported.

The parties contesting the poll are the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction, the United National Congress, the People's National Movement, and the National Joint Action Committee. On nomination day, Tuesday, Motion was the lone party in the country which did not submit papers at the City Hall to contest the December 17 by-election in the constituency of Diego Martin Central.

The seat was made vacant by the death of government Parliamentarian Leo des Vignes who sustained a gunshot wound during the late July coup attempt by members of the Jamaat al Muslimeen group.

Solana Addresses Senate on Free Trade Accord

PA0712012490 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0248 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana Morales has reported to the Senate that, as stated by President Carlos Salinas, petroleum will not be included in the Free Trade Agreement (TLC) with the United States.

After he presented his report to the Senate, Solana Morales answered the senators' questions. He explained to the opposition senators that fuel products are not included in the agreement. He added that the TLC is "only a means, but not the end to attaining national development."

Solana Morales reported that formal negotiations for the TLC will start during the early months of 1991. He said that the treaty will increase the demand for better paid, qualified personnel without including migratory labor.

The foreign secretary said relations with the United States were getting stronger and would become permanently stable soon. He admitted, however, that Mexico experienced certain limitations in defending Mexican citizens who are attacked in the northern border area and on U.S. territory.

Solana Morales said that these aggressions should be efficiently dealt with in order "to end human rights violations against Mexicans who try to enter the United States illegally."

Concerning foreign policy, Solana Morales told the 56 senators present that Mexico should undertake concrete, direct, and specific efforts to help reduce the number of differing positions that are impeding world peace.

The United Nations is weak and its weakness grows with the unbridled increase of multilateral organizations that make its work difficult.

The government official also denied the rumor that Mexican troops would be sent to the Middle East. He said Mexico was a UN Security Council member, but this did not require it take military action of any type.

Referring to the possibility that foreign observers be present at the next Mexican elections—as proposed by the Party of the Democratic Revolution Senator Porfirio Munoz Leda—the foreign secretary said this was not possible "as the problems of Mexican democracy must be resolved by Mexicans."

After Solana Morales gave his report on Mexican foreign policy and during the question and answer period, the legislators said that they favored improving relations with the United States.

Yucatan Electoral Commission Announces Results

PA0612153890 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1325 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Yucatan State's Electoral Commission has reported that the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] won in 15 electoral districts and 60 municipalities while the opposition won three mayoralties.

According to available official figures on the 25 November elections, the National Action Party [PAN] won the mayoralties in Tixpeual and Tizimin while the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party won the (Calcachen) Municipality.

(Luis Cetina Morales), president of the State Electoral Commission, said that the vote-counting process in this state has been peaceful except in (Etsan) Municipality where there was a violent outbreak that was controlled by the Roads and Safety Secretariat.

It was reported that Merida's Municipal Electoral Commission has determined the winner in five of its seven districts. Both the PRI and PAN are claiming victory in that capital city of Yucatan State.

El Salvador

Pacas Declines Comments on FMLN Truce Details

PA0712023490 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas Castro has declined to comment on the Christmas truce called for by the guerrillas. Pacas Castro said he has no details on the truce, but added that anything that contributes toward ending hostilities is a good sign. Pacas Castro said, however, that the government's wish is to end the conflict once and for all. We have repeatedly said that the negotiations are headed that way, but the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] does not seem to understand this, the minister said. The guerrilla's truce has been criticized by certain sectors who cannot understand why it should only be for San Salvador. Pacas Castro said that the Salvadoran people should not continually be made to suffer.

[Begin Pacas recording] Right now I have little information on the truce. What I do want to say is that any lessening of violence in our country will always be welcome. The Salvadoran people deserve it. From the very first day, this administration has done everything it can to end violence. We have repeatedly said that we believe in the force of reason, not reason by force. Because of this, we try reasoning and dialogue to reach an understanding with the FMLN, because we do not think it fair or necessary for the Salvadoran people to continue to suffer. [end recording]

The official said that the problems that are currently affecting our country should be discusssed at the negotiating table, which means without violence.

[Begin Pacas recording] Our position from the beginning has been that we do not want war and that our countries' problems should be discussed in order to find solutions. We do not believe that violence is the way to solve problems. On the contrary, it only makes problems worse and it increases the suffering of the Salvadoran people and [words indistinct] which they do not deserve. [end recording]

The guerrillas' initiative of declaring a brief limited truce was in answer to a request by the Catholic Church to give the Salvadoran people a break. Almost no one, however, had expected the partial truce to be limited to San Salvador and last for only a few hours. The FMLN has said that the truce begins at 0600 on 24 December, ends at 1800 on 25 December, and begins again at 0600 on 31 December and ends at 1800 on 1 January. The FMLN claims that the Army has requested a truce due to the political and military disorganization that the Army suffered at the hands of the rebels. According to the guerrillas, a prolonged truce would allow the enemy to regroup its forces and begin counterattacks against the rebels.

FMLN Vows To Continue Downing Planes

PA0612214590 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has reiterated today that it will continue downing fighter planes in order to show that the pilots are not carrying out civilian missions.

In a communique this morning, the guerrillas rejected remarks by President Alfredo Cristiani, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and Defense Minister Rene Emilio Ponce, who deplored the guerrillas' use of missiles to down an AC-47 in La Laguna, Chalatenango Department, on 4 December.

The rebel communique also noted that according to the Cristiani and Ponce account, the incident involved a plane used to carry troops and that the FMLN is escalating the war by using sophisticated weapons. It added that for this reason, the Army is willing to respond with a wave of violence.

In view of this, the communique issued by the joint command of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front says that:

1. The Armed Forces are unilaterally responsible for the escalation of the war over the past 12 years. They have increased the volume of troops, means, missiles, and bombs, as well as the number of antiriot weapons used to repress civilians during that period.

2. The creation of our National Army for Democracy and the people's war is not a sign of an escalation of actions but proof that our forces are stronger and that the course of the war shows that our army is advancing victoriously, the rebel communique added.

In point three, the guerrillas noted that Ponce's and Cristiani's complaint about the downing of a plane at a time when they are engaged in a war, is not too ethical from the military point of view and is a very low move, politically.

The United States sent C-47 planes to our country to participate in the war, and because of this, these planes were outfitted with guns from the very beginning and converted into military models which are called AC-47's. These planes belong to the A group, indicating that they are the armored planes.

In point four, the rebel communique adds that the pilots of such aircrafts are not involved in civilian missions or distributing candy. They are dropping bombs and strafing areas. Thus, what Ponce and Cristiani proved with their statements is that they do not trust their army.

Point five stated that the most sophisticated weapons in this country are used by the Air Force and the armored units. While the main weapons used by our National Army for Democracy are those made by the people. In view of the technology and cruelty of the army, however—headed now by President Cristiani and Ponce—it

is more than just for the poor people's army to obtain and use modern weapons in its democratic cause.

Point six noted that the threats of more violence from the government show, once more, its death squad origins and its repressive attitude against civilians, but also its cowardice and weakness.

Finally, it reiterated that all these threats will not stop the National Army for Democracy. The rebels also praised the victories in the current campaign called Punish the Antidemocratic Armed Forces.

Army-Rebel Clash Leaves 2 Civilians Dead

PA0712032990 Paris AFP in Spanish 0231 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] San Salvador, 6 Dec (AFP)—Journalists have confirmed that clashes between Army troops and the Salvadoran guerrillas today along a 15 km stretch of the coastal highway of the southeastern department of Usulutan have resulted in being two civilians killed and three wounded.

The fierce fighting began sporadically on 5 December and heightened today, paralyzing the flow of vehicles from San Salvador to the provincial capital of Usulutan.

According to eyewitnesses, the death of the two civilians occurred when two aircraft bombed the outlying township of San Francisco Javier, 90 km from the capital, in Usulutan.

Long lines of cars waited in San Marcos Lempa—80 km from the capital—for a cease-fire in order to cross the stretch of the highway in dispute.

At 1730 (2330 GMT), the vehicle traffic remained paralyzed, while the sound of machine-gun, mortar, and rifle fire broke out in the zone and the inhabitants of San Marcos Lempa, Tierra Blanca, and Jiquilisco took refuge in their homes due to the hostilities.

"Vladimir," the guerrilla leader who was directing the fighting on the highway, told journalists that they will remain on the highway to prevent the 6th Army Infantry Brigade troops, which are guarding the highway, from gaining access.

With regard to the four-day truce decreed by the FMLN for Christmas and New Year's, "Vladimir" asked: "What soldier would not want a happy and peaceful Christmas?"

For 16 days the FMLN has maintained a military campaign that seeks to pressure the government and the Armed Forces to adopt political agreements to demilitarize the country.

MPSC Leader Demands Security for Elections

PA0612151090 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 4 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] MPSC [Social Christian Peoples Movement] leader Ruben Zamora has said: "If there are no security conditions guaranteeing protection of human life and fair elections, we will withdraw from the electoral process."

During the past presidential elections, the MPSC formed an alliance with Dr. Guillermo Ungo's Democratic Convergence. This year, the MPSC has not yet made a decision in this regard.

Zamora noted that remarkable advances have been made in El Salvador, which lead us to believe that we are heading toward an electoral process that will be the first step toward the attainment of true democracy. He warned that December is a crucial month.

The peace talks between the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and the government have had positive results. The upcoming elections are expected to take place in an improved atmosphere because of the progress made in the dialogue. Zamora emphasized that political parties and other groups should also work to create these security conditions.

MPSC Secretary General Zamora added that there are still problems—the Jesuit case, in particular—which could obstruct these elections, in the same way that they are affecting the attainment of peace.

Guatemala

Defense Minister on Transfer of Soldiers

PA0712043990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0117 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Two Guatemalan officers are to blame for last week's murders of 14 peasants in Santiago Atitlan, and "they will be punished to the fullest extent of the law," Defense Minister General Juan Bolanos said today. The minister said during a news conference that the responsibility for the incident "falls" on Lieutenant Jose Ortiz Rodriguez and Sergeant Major Efrain Garcia Gonzalez.

The incident, where 22 people were also wounded, took place when hundreds of peasants went to a garrison to turn in a drunken soldier who had held up a local store. The soldiers opened fire on the peasants. Bolanos said that "the irresponsible attitude of the two officers should not and must not mar an entire institution," referring to criticism of the Army.

Based on an order by President Vinicio Cerezo, over the next two weeks, the military detachment will be transferred from Santiago Atitlan, a town located 120 km from Guatemala City, although this measure "does not entail weakness or lack of resolve" on the part of the government, the defense minister noted.

Honduras

Acting Army Chief Views Cantarero Resignation

PA0712022890 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Interview with Colonel Jose de Jesus Banegas Medina, acting commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, by journalist Danilo Izaguirre in Tegucigalpa; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Izaguirre] Colonel Jose de Jesus Banegas, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, is the acting commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces. As a top ranking officer, he belongs to the Senior Council of the Armed Forces. There are many different reports circulating. Some people who have been circulating these reports claim to be friends of all the colonels of the sixth graduating class. Is it true that General Arnulfo Cantarero was arrested?

[Banegas] It is not true. I always welcome him and bid him farewell when he leaves. My duty is to take him to the airport. He took an airplane. Now that he has returned, he will have information for you. The report is totally false. I keep my promises.

[Izaguirre] Is it true that you asked Gen. Cantaredo to sign his resignation?

[Banegas] Not at all.

[Izaguirre] You know the details. Can you tell us what happened upon his return from the United States? He was scheduled to return on Sunday, 2 December, but he came back on 1 December. Now it turns out that he resigned.

[Banegas] He told us that he decided to retire. He said: I have thought this over and am doing this for personal reasons. We asked him: Are you sure? You are aware of our responsibilities. He said: I have thought it over, so please do not ask me any more questions.

[Izaguirre] Is it true that you made a series of requests which he was unwilling to accept?

[Banegas] That is not true. When he came back, he had made up his mind.

[Izaguirre] I understand that the general staff and the Senior Council of the Armed Forces make the choice. This time, things happened in a normal fashion, but I feel that there is something more to it. People are wondering how the commander in chief can suddenly resign just because he felt like it.

[Banegas] You would have to be there. Saying something is not the same as doing something. He had all sorts of duties, and sometimes one does not like that. I came close to occupying that post once. The work load is very big.

[Izaquirre] Is it stressful? Are there pressures?

[Banegas] It is stressful, and there are pressures. You have no privacy and no time for your family. It is hard.

[Izaquirre] In the past decade, four commanders in chief have been appointed, and Humberto Regalado Hernandez has been the only one to complete his term. What can be done to enforce the Armed Forces' charter? What can be done to improve the situation and prevent doubts and uncertainty among the people?

[Banegas] That is a hard question to answer. Every person has his own way of thinking. Each one makes the decisions he deems appropriate. It is hard to say how to do this. We do not have a model to make the right decisions.

[Izaguirre] What really happened to Gen. Cantaredo Lopez?

[Banegas] [Words indistinct] he was a leader who had the ability to make decisions. He had everything but, I repeat, he had excess work.

[Izaguirre] Do you think he failed?

[Banegas] I do not think so.

[Izaguirre] How do you explain that he was appointed chief 10 months ago and then suddenly resigned.

[Banegas] Nobody has changed his mind about him. He has, however, changed his views. He resigned for personal reasons. We truly regret it. As his subordinate—and I still feel like his subordinate—I really appreciate him. He is my friend and ally. I truly regret that he left the job.

[Izaguirre] Persons close to the top military leadership note that there are differences and pressures. They say one group pressures the other because it wants to be the boss. Does this happen within the Honduran Armed Forces?

[Banegas] No. The Armed Forces are united. We have hierarchy and ranks like any other professional institution. It happens that at some time someone has to be at the head of the Armed Forces. No one here, however, is planning to advance to the top, and there are a few who can do it.

[Izaguirre] Are you included on the three-candidate slate? The National Congress usually appoints the person heading the list. Are you the most senior officer or the most likely to occupy this post in the future?

[Banegas] All of us on the three-candidate slate have the same possibilities of being chosen as we all meet the same requirements. The National Congress, however, has the last word.

[Izaguirre] Were the promotions already forwarded to the Defense Ministry and the standing congressional comittee?

[Banegas] They will be sent today or tomorrow to the Defense Ministry so that the list can be forwarded to the National Congress. I am sending it to the Executive Branch via the Defense Ministry, and in turn to the National Congress.

[Izaguirre] Can you give us any names?

[Banegas] I cannot remember; there are so many names.

[Izaguirre] Will there be promotions to general?

[Banegas] No, just the routine promotions.

[Izaguirre] What will the future be like for the new commander in chief?

[Banegas] He will have the challenge of proving himself because this is a difficult job. Those that have been close to this position realize the huge amount of work and how formal this work is.

[Izaguirre] Col. Banegas, it is being said that food for the battalions has been a problem. Although the reduction in the budget has had an impact on this, the need for food and other items for the country's military are not being met. How about the reduction of the Army in the area?

[Banegas] This is the consensus that exists in Central America. We are talking of balancing forces in Central America, based on the [words indistinct].

[Izaguirre] How are your relations with the Executive Branch?

[Banegas] Very cordial and totally obedient.

[Izaguirre] Did you tell President Leonardo Callejas of Cantarero's resignation. How did he react?

[Banegas] He was just as surprised as we were.

[Izaguirre] What will Gen. Cantarero's fate be?

[Banegas] He will be treated with full respect.

[Izaguirre] Will he be acting as adviser or retiring?

[Banegas] He remains on active duty and is our adviser.

[Izaguirre] Does he have to wait for the new commander in chief to be appointed?

[Banegas] Yes, this is advisable in order to keep the legal structure.

Nicaragua

Communique Notes Paris Club Economic Backing

PA0612140590 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1815 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] On 4 December, approximately 70 representatives of 17 countries and eight international organizations concluded a two-day meeting in Paris, France, by expressing support for Nicaragua's efforts to stabilize its economy and reincorporate the country into the international financial community—this according to a communique issued in Paris by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo and sent to our news department. The communique said that the meeting was chaired by Rainer Steckhan, World Bank director for Mexico and Central America. The Nicaraguan delegation was headed by Presidency Minister Lacayo, who was accompanied by Finance Minister Emilio Pereira, Economy and Development Minister Silvio de Franco, Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Krugger, Central Bank Manager Raul Lacayo, and National Assembly Deputies Luis Sanchez and Sergio Ramirez. At the meeting, Nicaragua's delegates submitted a report on the progress achieved in stabilizing and modernizing the economy, reconstructing the infrastructure, and implementing rural programs.

During the meeting, the Nicaraguan Government's objectives were considered, including rapid reduction of the current inflation rates and sustained economic growth, starting in 1991. The Nicaraguan delegates wholeheartedly supported a proposal by the IMF, Inter-American Development Bank, and World Bank to review with Nicaragua in January a detailed program for stabilization and reforms as the key to the donor's renewed support.

According to the aforementioned communique, a subsequent meeting was scheduled for the consultative group [seven-second break in reception] a firm timetable to solve Nicaragua's delay in paying international financial institutions. The donors reiterated that the meeting [four-second break in reception] the commitment of the government and key sectors of Nicaragua's society to stabilize the economy, begin structural reforms, and meet the people's most critical social needs.

The meeting also reviewed the government's information on the country's foreign debt and endorsed the bilateral negotiations that began between Nicaragua and the international community. Attending the meeting were representatives from Germany, Canada, Denmark, Spain, the United States, Finland, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Switzerland. The USSR and Venezuela participated as observers.

National Bank Announces New Cordoba Devaluation

PA0612015190 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1330 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Another distressful Monday and another week of suffering for the working people begins with the announcement by the Central Bank setting the par value of the cordoba at 2.14 million per dollar. This week, during which the Christmas bonus payment—also called the 13th month bonus payment—is eagerly awaited, this new devaluation increases the uncertainty about how far this payment will go [words indistinct].

With the high cost of living, and more specifically the high cost of staple items, the truth is that there is no way a family can live on a salary and be able to make it with this cost of living. Those who still hold in their minds a criminal ability to promote violence should stop to think about the suffering their actions cause the people.

With the new devaluation set at 2.14 million cordobas per dollar, gasoline will now cost 12.84 million cordobas [unit not specified], diesel fuel 3.84 million [unit not specified], a 10-pound butane gas tank will cost 4.64 million, a 25-pound tank will cost 11.26 million, and a 100-pound tank will cost 44.67 million cordobas.

The rise in urban bus fares, which are now approximately 300,000 cordobas, has yet to be announced, along with the increase in the prices of imported goods and other essential items for the Immaculate Conception, Christmas, and New Year festivities.

Retired EPS Officers Discuss Demands

PA0612005690 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 2 Dec 90 pp 1, 5

[Text] More than 5,000 retired Nicaraguan Army officers have formed an organization for presenting their social demands and for carrying out actions which will ease their reentry into civilian life.

The retired officers organization is named after FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] National Directorate member Carlos Nunez Tellez. The Sandinist leader was honored in this manner because of his staunch defense of the Nicaraguan Constitution.

The former EPS [Sandinist People's Army] officers have demanded that the government give them 50,000 manzanas of land to farm. They also want free medical attention for themselves and their families.

More than 400 retired officers, who represent the 5,000 retired officers, presented these demands at the meeting forming the organization, which was held at the National University Auditorium.

The officers also requested that a scholarship program be established to allow them to study at Nicaraguan education centers. The organization's representatives also requested office space for the new association.

The officers questioned some government "oversights" because several retired officers have not received their December wages. The officers are concerned and anguished about this omission, especially with the Christmas holidays so close.

They noted that there is a marked difference between the treatment they receive and the treatment given to former contra members. The government has given land and equipment to former contra members, but has not done the same for former Army members.

The retired officers organization democratically elected a provisional committee during the meeting. Rebel Commander Francisco Rivera (El Zorro) was elected honorary president of the committee. Also elected were former Colonel Leopoldo Rivas and former Major Ivan Garcia.

Commander Francisco Rivera, the legendary Zorro, said former Army officers had to organize to help themselves and the people.

"We dispersed for several reasons. For example, some of us are without jobs, and others are studying or working in the fields. It is best, therefore, to get organized so that we can keep in touch, share our experiences, and cooperate with each other," Rivera said.

During the meeting, the former active-duty officers criticized the way their retirement was handled and the bureaucratic procedures they have to go through to return to civilian life.

Former Colonel Leopoldo Rivas Alfaro praised the retired officers' democratic spirit and said it annulled the attacks made by rightist sectors regarding "the Army officers' hesitant political conscience."

Rivas said that organization officials have made a list of the problems that were presented and discussed at the assembly and that these will have to be resolved by the government.

"The former officers repeatedly noted the government's discriminatory attitude toward former EPS officers, comparing it to the manner in which the government treats former contras," Rivas stated.

He recalled that the former contras had not carried out any useful social work in the past, and that, quite to the contrary, they had been mainly responsible for the country's destruction and had acted against the people many times." [no opening quotation marks as published]

In conclusion, Rivas noted that the former contras have the right to live and are given the basic means for them and their families to survive. "It is not a matter of taking anything away from them, but of giving the same benefits they receive to the retired EPS officers who defended their country against imperialism's attempts to destroy it," he said.

'Let Us Save Democracy Movement' Discussed

PA0712012290 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Dec 90 pp 1, 5

[Text] An assortment of rightist politicians from the self-styled Let Us Save Democracy Movement yesterday held a lengthy meeting during which the government was accused of freezing the advancement of democracy. The meeting was seasoned with slogans asking the participants "to struggle to reach the government."

Mayors, former Nicaragua Resistance rebels, and deputies and politicians identified with Vice President Virgilio Godoy issued a communique urging the executive branch to satisfy the 12 demands they presented when they blocked the road to El Rama.

The group has been demanding the dismissal of the ministers of the Presidency, government, and defense, and the withdrawal of Army and police forces. Yesterday the group added the elimination of the Army to its list of demands; it demanded that the Army budget be reduced to five percent of what it is now.

Roger Garcia, Humberto Castilla, and former National Guard member Rigoberto Herrera, who headed the protest movement in Region V, urged the assembled people to organize cells of this movement in the municipalities. This was rejected by Arnoldo Aleman, who wants to be president of the National Association of Mayors of the National Opposition Union [UNO].

Aleman spoke in favor of creating regional or departmental associations of mayors and aldermen. He said that such associations "would make deputies get back in line." The assembled people agreed to support both proposals.

Marina Vargas, mayor of Villa Sandino, presented a document demanding the dismissal of General Humberto Ortega. The document is signed by a list of people. Jose Rivas, who introduced himself as Commander Jose, announced that he is joining the municipal movement representating the former contras.

Alberto Saborto, one of the many speakers, ratified the opportunistic nature of the movement. "While it is true that we used the claims of the resistance as a pretext to emerge, now we represent those who protest against the government for having frozen the advancement of democracy and for abuse of power," he said.

Saborto urged the participants at the meeting to pressure deputies into introducing bills intended to control the activities of the president and her ministers. He complained that "cheap party interests" have prevented a better performance by UNO deputies in the National Assembly.

The meeting was presided over by mayors Aleman and Armando Incer; Deputy Humberto Castilla; Roger Garcia, from a municipal political council; Sergio Garcia, from the National Confederation of Professional Associations; and Armando Quinonez, from the group Civic Way. Azucena Ferrey and Dr. Myriam Arguello also attended the meeting.

Some speakers asked the UNO deputies to vote as one with regard to the budget and the investigations into the acts of violence in Yolaina, La Sabana, Nueva Guinea, and Jean Paul Gennie.

Finally, they decided to create on 11 December the Let Us Save Democracy National Commission, with the participation of three delegates for each region. It is believed that the association of mayors could appoint representatives to the commission.

Telcor Management, Union To Resume Negotiations

PA0712001490 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Francisco Hernandez, a Nicaraguan Workers' Federation leader from the Masaya delegation, said this morning that there are possibilities that the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute [Telcor] management might accept their demands for a 25-percent increase in wages and the reactivation of the collective agreement. A new round of talks is scheduled today between the union members from Granada, Masaya, and Carazo and management. Three departments in Telcor are on strike and postal and telegraph services have been suspended since 3 December.

Panama

Linares: U.S. Intervention 'Lesser of Two Evils'

PA0712032790 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares said today that democracy must prevail over the militarism that certain segments of the population want to revive in Panama:

[Begin Linares recording] I agree with President Endara's position [to request U.S. help to quell a military rebellion led by Colonel Eduardo Herrera] for a very simple reason: When a country has suffered 21 years of tyranny, as Panama did, often times, to consolidate the legal state, we are not able as we would like, to chose between two goods, not even between good and evil. Unfortunately, we had to chose between two evils, the lesser of two evils.

In the case at hand, we had a U.S. intervention—which no one likes, no Panamanian likes it and the nationals of no other country would like it either—but, the other evil, which is even worse, would have been to allow the legal state to collapse, to allow democracy to collapse.

I believe that after 21 years of being subdued by the military boot, between those two evils, we preferred to preserve and consolidate democracy, because when President Endara received a popular mandate in the elections, a great majority of the Panamanians wanted us to struggle against the tyranny and strengthen that democracy.

The number one duty of the current government is to take all possible steps to strengthen democracy, and toward this effect, we hope to have the support and cooperation not only of the United States, but of all those states that claim to want a representative democracy here and to see it strengthened.

The number one priority of the current government—and in this regard I believe that we enjoy the support of a great majority of the Panamanian people—is to take

every step possible to consolidate democracy in this country and avoid falling under the military boot. [end recording]

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 2305 GMT on 6 December adds that when asked whether the United States will use this intervention as an excuse to perpetuate its presence beyond the year 2000, Linares said: "Those are two completely different issues and we should not associate one with the other." This AFP report also states that Linares denied that the Panamanian Government has signed an agreement with the United States allowing it to intervene.]

Assembly Resolution Condemns 'Coup Attempt'

PA0612170290 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 6 Dec 90 p 28

["Text" of Legislative Assembly resolution issued in Panama City on 5 December 1990]

[Text] Considering that:

1. Yesterday, 4 December, Eduardo Herrera, a retired soldier, and some of his followers once again tried to undermine the foundations of democracy in Panama;

2. Several union leaders, who share the defunct Defense Forces narcodictatorship views, also participated in this coup attempt;

3. In a clear demonstration of respect for the Constitution and the democratic government, the National Police leaders and members remained loyal to the civilian authorities and the state of law;

4. The people's experience under 21 years of a dictatorship have left deep wounds affecting the Panamanian people's political, social, economic, and moral order;

The Legislative Assembly hereby resolves:

1. To express its unrestricted support for the constitutional government elected by the people's will;

2. To condemn the military and civilian coupists who attempted to subvert constitutional order and cast Panamanian society into mourning and confusion;

3. To acknowledge the civic stand of public workers and the Panamanian people in general, as well as the respect and loyalty that the great majority of the police members demonstrated for the Constitution and the state of law;

4. To invite the government institutions to revise Panama's policy with the Assembly through dialogue and self-criticism, make the necessary corrections, and gracefully find a solution to the crisis that is hurting the Panamanian people.

Panama City, 5 December 1990.

'Exclusive' Herrera Statements Revealed

PA0612184690 Panama City EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 6 Dec 90 pp 10, 11

[Report by Lionel Blaideli]

[Text] Prior to the arrest of retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera by U.S. troops, EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE had asked him if he planned to open fire on the U.S. soldiers who were outside the Ancon police station, which he had occupied. He replied: "I believe it is futile, but I will stay with the troops until the end."

When Herrera was arrested he said: "I did all I could." The U.S. troops arrested and turned him over to Panamanian officials.

The coupist officer, under heavy guard by U.S. troops, was turned over to the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] forces in Ancon at approximately 1045 on 5 December.

A few minutes before he was arrested and his armed companions had surrendered, Herrera revealed details of the rebellion's military strategy to EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE in an exclusive manner. He said the action had not been successful because the U.S. Southern Command had intervened and because the support promised by Isaac Rodriguez's workers had never materialized.

"I understood that the U.S. troops were here only to mediate and to avoid bloodshed," Col. Herrera said to EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE when he was told that President George Bush had offered military aid to stifle the armed insurrection to President Guillermo Endara.

He added: "I hope Deputy Minister Ramon Lima has convinced President Endara to accept the demands made by the troops that support me. I am worried, however, because this is taking too long and our telephone communications have been cut."

The rebel officer did not want his troops to present an armed resistance during the "Tocumen" operation he initiated. He had journalists accompany him in order to avoid deaths and in order to be able to reach the Legislative Palace.

EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE noticed that the hooded rebel soldiers were evidently tense at approximately 1000 because they had not receive support from troops in the rest of the country and the alleged plan for government and private workers to give them support had not materialized.

We asked Herrera: Colonel, do you think its wise to take up arms when you leave this place? He briefly replied: "Remember I am a retired officer. The soldiers got me out of Naos Island for a reason: to present the demands that I gave Ramon Lima. Besides, I do not believe an armed effort is wise or would have positive results."

Herrera began the "Tocumen" operation when he realized his troops at the police headquarters were waiting

for "support groups" that had not materialized. The plan was to peacefully walk to the Legislative Palace surrounded by the journalists who were present.

Perhaps what prompted the black hooded soldiers to abandon their refuge after they had spoken to Deputy Minister Lima was their suspicion that the police forces who were loyal to President Endara would start an armed action against them and force them off of the premises. The delay in getting aid from "support groups" and Bush's offer of military support to Endara forced the former colonel to carry out the contingent "Tocumen" strategy.

Herrera said: "Mr. journalist, we are going to the Legislative Assembly. The people will join this peaceful struggle where there will be no bloodshed." After that, he quickly abandoned his office, accompanied by Captain Jorge Eliecer Bernal, the Torrijist Ideology Movement leader. They were quickly surrounded by journalists and approximately 50 armed soldiers and they started to walk.

There were moments of confusions after the group had walked 200 meters and were surrounded by armed vehicles and "brave" U.S. soldiers carrying high-caliber weapons. The rebels were stopped, but they continued their "Tocumen" operation and did not heed the gringos attempts to arrest them. An armed confrontation could have occurred but both Herrera and Jorge Bernal shouted: "Do not shoot. They cannot open fire on us."

After they passed two checkpoints and U.S. soldiers began chasing them, Col. Herrera and his companions tried to escape through a fence that had been torn down by a government truck. Southern Command soldiers reached them, however, and quickly disarmed them. There was struggling by some of the rebel soldiers and a few shots were fired outside the market and near the Curundu housing area.

The rebels were disarmed and ordered to climb into a National Police truck. While this occurred, the residents of the area shouted insults to the U.S. soldiers. Col. Herrera was arrested by Southern Command soldiers and taken to the PTJ headquarters in Ancon. PTJ Director Leslie Loaiza told the journalists that "the rebel officer surrendered voluntarily."

According to unofficial reports, a U.S. soldier shot one of the rebels. It has also been reported that EL PANAMA AMERICA photographer Daniel Espinosa and CRITICA LIBRE journalist Domingo Romero were victims of the confusion during these events. They were both attended to at the local hospital. LA PRENSA journalist Zoila Jovane was also attacked by thieves during these events.

CRITICA LIBRE Sums Up 4-5 Dec Events

PA0612192790 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 6 Dec 90 pp 1, 2, 30

[Excerpts] A military revolt suppressed yesterday by U.S. troops resulted in one policeman dead and one wounded, and in the arrest of retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan, who headed the rebels. The dead policeman was Second Sergeant Filemon del Rosario Montero, who was shot in the head. Corporal Armando Antonio Canto was wounded. [passage omitted]

In addition to the policeman killed yesterday, various photographers were wounded, including Domingo Romero of CRITICA LIBRE and Daniel Espinosa of EL PANAMA AMERICA, who were attacked by U.S. soldiers. LA PRENSA Journalist Zoila Jovane was attacked in Curundu by hoodlums who stole her personal belongings. [passage omitted]

The rebels who escorted Col. Herrera, their leader, when he was leaving the police headquarters in Ancon did not obey the orders given by U.S. soldiers who were blocking nearby streets.

The most serious incident occurred in front of the Santa Cruz housing complex, when U.S. reinforcements arrived in armored vehicles, pointed their weapons at the rebels, and forced them to lay down on the ground to check them.

Col. Herrera Hassan managed to escape to the Curundu neighborhood, where U.S. soldiers finally cornered him. At that time, Herrera asked to talk to Colonel James Steele, commander of the military support group, who arrived with a proposal.

After a conversation—which was held in an empty lot in Curundu—lasting several minutes, Herrera Hassan asked one of his officers to pick up the weapons and then he turned himself in to Col. James Steele, who turned him over to Captain Leslie Loaiza, director of the Judicial Technical Police.

Herrera Hassan's surrendered under the conditions that his troops captured by U.S. soldiers would be released and that he would be guaranteed fair treatment according to Panamanian laws.

During the conversations, Panamanian Sergeant Filemon Montero was shot by a U.S. soldier who, according to witnesses, was very nervous. Montero died later in a hospital.

Herrera Hassan left the site in an Army truck, together with his followers, who covered their faces with black scarves.

It was unofficially reported that another policeman was killed in Santa Cruz when a Southern Command soldier injured him with his rifle. According to reports, the policeman—who had handcuffs—got nervous and tried to jump off the truck in which he was held prisoner. [passage omitted]

On several occasions while he was at the police headquarters, Herrera had to talk to his troops who were a little confused by the presence of U.S. troops near the building. Some officers gave him their support, while others did not back him and later on withdrew from the area.

The National Police vehicles used [by the rebels] in their attempt to reach the Justo Arosemena Palace [Legislative Assembly building], which were left abandoned, were dismantled in a matter of seconds by hoodlums, who also stole the weapons left behind by the rebels.

Citing Herrera, Legislative Assembly President Alonso Fernandez said that the weapons carried by the rebels loyal to Col. Herrera were not loaded when they were heading to the Legislative Assembly.

Fernandez said that according to Herrera, they wanted to go to the Legislative Assembly to begin a peaceful dialogue and to request the mediation of the assembly in order to get answers to some of their demands. [passage omitted]

Today Attorney General Rogelio Cruz will give more details on the escape and subsequent arrest of former Col. Herrera Hassan who, together with other officers, tried to promote a military coup against the national government.

Cruz said that his office is gathering new evidence to be added to the proceedings on Herrera Hassan, who surprisingly escaped from the jail on Naos Island on 4 December.

Meanwhile, Rafael Rodriguez, Herrera Hassan's lawyer, confirmed yesterday that he will no longer defend Herrera Hassan, as he always advised him to turn himself in voluntarily and not to act against the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Editorials Discuss Herrera Incident

PA0612220190

[Editorial Report] Panama City Spanish-language newspapers on 6 December carry editorials concerning the 4-5 December incidents related to former Colonel Eduardo Herrera's escape from jail and the takeover of the Ancon Police Garrison by troops loyal to him.

Panama City LA PRENSA on page 1A carries a 330-word item in its daily "As of Today" column. It says that recent developments have shown that "political freedom must be defended against anyone who tries to trample over it. Therefore, the initial reaction of disbelief with regard to a military coup attempt was soon followed by citizen conviction that it is necessary to preserve democratic institutions at any cost, and to firmly and resolutely support President Endara's government, which legitmately represents the people's will expressed at the polls."

Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA on page 4A and CRITICA LIBRE on page 4 carry the same 300-word editorial condemning the coup attempt and expressing support for President Endara's government. The editorial says, in part, that "on 4 December, a group of military men tried to seize power again. They used the weapons that the Republic had given them to try to disrupt the constitutional order. Eduardo Herrera and his followers made an attempt against the freedom and democratic institutions of all Panamanians." It ends by stating that "together with the great majority of Panamanians, we express our support for the president of the Republic and his minister of government and justice. At this moment, they represent legitimacy and the homeland's highest interests."

Panama City DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE on page 4 carries a 225-word editorial entitled: "Eduardo Herrera: The Panamanian Rambo." It strongly criticizes Herrera, saying that "once again, 'false military heroes' irresponsibly and in a cowardly manner urge their friends and followers on to suicidal missions, while they refrain from participating in truly military actions."

Panama City EL SIGLO on page 2 carries a 200-word commentary in the "Improvisations" column by Alfredo Icaza who says that yesterday's events were shameful and sad because Panamanian policemen looked like cowards in front of the U.S. soldiers. He says: "I feel sad when I think that there are no brave men in my homeland, only cowards subjugated by the invading gringos, which should be repulsed by the citizens." The commentary ends with: "Gringos: Go to the Gulf!"

The same newspaper on page 4 carries a 500-word commentary in the "Period and That's It" column by Jaime Ortega, which states that yesterday's events were possible only because the government maintains former military and civilian officials on the payroll. He mentions prominent former Noriega supporters who are still in high government posts and recommends that they all be replaced, including Attorney General Rogelio Cruz.

Public Force Members Implicated in Herrera Escape

PA0712042490 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 dec 90

[Text] High-level officials of the Public Force have been implicated in former Colonel Eduardo Herrera's escape from Naos Island, according to statements by PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] Director Leslie Loaiza.

[Begin recording] [Loaiza] It is under investigation. The investigation is still in an embryonic phase.

[Reporter] What have the results of the investigation been thus far?

[Loaiza] We have managed to progress.

[Reporter] How, for instance?

[Loaiza] We have unequivocally identified the names of persons who participated in the incident.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the people who got Herrera out of Naos?

[Loaiza] That is one of the first things under investigation. It is quite clear now.

[Reporter] How many persons are allegedly involved?

[Loaiza] The people involved in the escape of Col. Herrera are for the most part active members of the police force.

[Reporter] There are current members of the Public Force implicated in this?

[Loaiza] In the escape of Col. Herrera?

[Reporter] Exactly.

[Loaiza] Yes, of course. There are members of the Public Force.

[Reporter] What former members of the Public Force are involved? Are they retired or discharged?

[Loaiza] You have seen them in the media...Captain [Jorge] Bernal, for example.

[Reporter] Is Capt. Bernal under arrest?

[Loaiza] He is at large.

[Reporter] How many members of the group that supported Herrera are at large?

[Loaiza] There are many.

[Reporter] What has happened to the weapons that were seized?

[Loaiza] According to the totals we have heard—and this worries us—very few weapons have been recovered.

[Reporter] It was said that there was a trailer load. Is this true?

[Loaiza] That is false.

[Reporter] How many weapons do the fugitives allegedly have?

[Loaiza] We are worried because many weapons have fallen into the hands of criminals.

[Reporter] Has Herrera been questioned?

[Loaiza] Not yet.

[Reporter] Is there an estimate on the number and type of weapons?

[Loaiza] No, we do not have any number, but it is significant.

[Reporter] How many fugitives are there in all?

[Loaiza] I cannot give you a number, but we are talking about a considerable number.

[Reporter] Are there any state labor leaders under investigation?

[Loaiza] Some names have surfaced during this phase and they will be called later.

[Reporter] Why has Herrera not yet been questioned?

[Loaiza] That falls under the authority of the attorney general. [end recording]

Journalists Condemn Request for U.S. Assistance

PA0612224790 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2123 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Panama City, 6 Dec (DPA)—The Trade Union of Panamanian Journalists [SPP] in a communique today condemned the request by the government of Guillermo Endara for U.S. troops to intervene to quell the "mini-revolt" of some National Police units.

"Our organization condemns, because of its despicable and anti-Panamanian nature, the immoral and unconstitutional pretense of the subservient triumvirate—referring to Guillermo Endara and his two vice presidents—which suggests, without previously consulting with the people, that Panama is a protectorate of the Unites States. This was implicitly demonstrated in the intervention request to the U.S. military authorities by the collaborator regime," added the communique.

Colonel Eduardo Herrera, the former National Police chief, yesterday seized the main headquarters of the Panamanian National Police for 10 hours. The U.S. intervention, at the request of President Endara, put down the uprising, leaving two policemen loyal to Herrera killed by the Americans and 36 others arrested.

In the communique, the SPP also blamed the U.S. Army troops for the injuries inflicted on reporters Daniel Espinoza and Domingo Romero, both Panamanians who covered events of the police revolt.

"We denounce this new outrage and violation of the journalists' rights perpetrated by the invading troops at the request of a puppet administration which, due to its political nearsightedness, cannot see that the bayonets of the U.S. Army can be used in any way except to sit on," concluded the communique.

Labor Leaders Reportedly Go Into Hiding

PA0612231290 Paris AFP in Spanish 2105 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Panama City, 6 Dec (AFP)—The principal labor leaders of Panama went into hiding at noon today, after a police revolt against the government of Guillermo Endara was quashed by U.S. troops, labor union spokespersons have announced.

Antonio Ramos, a labor spokesperson, told journalists that nine labor leaders of the public and private sector decided to go into hiding because Endara's government had affirmed that the police revolt was coordinated with a call for a general strike on Wednesday by 68 labor organizations grouped in the National Committee for the Right to Life.

Although official sources do not know if an arrest warrant has been issued for the labor leaders, Ramos said that there was "evidence" that the authorities planned to arrest them. At the same time, he denied that the foiled strike was part of a plan to overthrow Endara.

Before the police revolt was quashed by the U.S. authorities, labor leaders Cesar Best and Antonio Ferrer met at the Public Force headquarters with Col. Eduardo Herrera, leader of the revolt, who was later captured.

The labor leaders who went into hiding are: Rolando Miller of the Intel [Union of Workers of the National Institute of Telecommunications], Hector Aleman of the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees, Isaac Rodriguez of the IRHE [Union of Workers of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification], Juan Mackenzi and Jaime Beitia of the National Council of Dismissed Workers, Antonio Ferrer of the Union of Public Transportation Drivers, Cesar Best of the Association of Social Security Fund Employees, and Fabio Cajar and Felipe Argote of the National Union of Portworkers of the Republic of Panama.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has said that this afternoon he will announce the legal measures to be taken against those officers who joined the revolt with Col. Herrera and the civilians who presumably cooperated in the uprising.

President Endara also said that "exemplary punishment" will be meted out against those who participated in the revolt and affirmed that a majority of the 12,000 police members remained loyal to him, despite the fact that U.S. Southern Command troops were called upon for assistance.

Along with Herrera, 36 of his collaborators were arrested on Wednesday. The whereabouts of another 150 troops who were entrenched at the police headquarters is unknown.

According to official sources, the uprising left one policeman dead, one wounded, and two local photographers wounded by a U.S. soldier, although unofficial sources have reported two dead and one wounded.

The situation in the capital was completely normal today, while official reports say that the police have begun a holiday season surveillance operation.

National Legislative Assembly President Alonso Fernandez who met with Herrera on Wednesday evening at the Renacer Penitentiary, which is heavily guarded by U.S. soldiers, said that the military man is "sorry."

Fernandez said, however, that when Herrera left the headquarters along with 200 heavily armed troops, he was headed toward the Assembly building "to surrender" and not to storm the Assembly, as was stated earlier.

The country's principal newspapers warned today of arrests, the dismissals of government employees, and purges of the Public Force.

Meanwhile, opposition leaders have announced a "large national protest" for 20 December, to condemn "this new intervention by U.S. troops."

Approximately 26,000 troops of the U.S. Southern Command invaded Panama to depose General Manuel Antonio Noriega and to place Guillermo Endara in power.

"It is inconceivable that our sovereignty is being tarnished even more to retain a puppet government in power," stated a member of the National Coordinating Board for the Defense of Sovereignty, who claims to be organizing the 20 December protest.

Government Proposes Firing Striking Workers

PA0712004190 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2316 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Report on interview with President Guillermo Endara by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] This afternoon the executive branch presented to the Legislative Assembly a bill authorizing the dismissal of all government workers who participated in the strike called for by the Coordinating Board for the Right to Life.

[Begin recording] [President Endara] The cabinet council has just approved a bill—the minister of the Presidency is currently at the Legislative Assembly presenting it—and they are requesting that the Legislative Assembly approve it right away. By means of this decree, the government will fire all public workers who participated in any way, be it organizing, promoting, or implementing the strike, and we declare that we will proceed to fire them, whether they have labor union privileges or not.

I must tell you that the labor union privileges were created to protect authentic unionism, not to promote coups or create a military dictatorship, like they attempted to create, to replace the democratic system.

The Panamanian Government has demonstrated that it is a democratic government and, as such, it has been soft, as I was told. When it comes to defending democracy and freedom, however, we will act rapidly with justice and strength. We will move, therefore, to fire all those who participated in the strike, which was intended to support the coup against Panamanian democracy. There is no procedure, however, for firings.

We are going to determine who the guilty people are because you all know who participated in and promoted

the strike. They appeared on television and everywhere; we saw them and I do not need to tell you their names. They are going to be fired.

[Reporter] Will charges be filed against them?

[Endara] The judiciary branch is responsible for filing penal charges.

[Reporter] Mr. President, in a news conference yesterday, the labor leaders said that [words indistinct]?

[Endara] They are beheading themselves. The labor unions will continue and I hope that there will be elections soon to pick respected leaders who will really represent the interests of the workers, instead of politicizing and promoting a military dictatorship.

I will not allow these individuals to destroy the democracy that we fought so hard for for 21 years. Many people were killed, exiled, or arrested, so much blood has been spilled here.

I must protect all of them. In memory of the fallen, in memory of Dr. Arnulfo Arias, I will not let the democracy we strove so hard for to achieve be destroyed.

[Reporter] Mr. President, when will the measures be taken?

[Endara] The bill will be submitted to the national Legislative Assembly, and it will be up to the Assembly to decide. I am convinced deputies will approve the bill. We are going to do it and prove that democracy knows how to defend itself.

[Reporter] Will this not create tense situations?

[Endara] To defend democracy, we are prepared to accept any situation.

[Reporter] Have you submitted it, Mr. Minister?

[Presidency Minister Julio Harris, speaking off camera] I just did. [end recording]

Endara was asked about Isaac Rodriguez, the chief leader of the state workers' unions.

[Begin Endara recording] He is an ingrate! He is an ingrate! A democratic regime brought him back to Panama. A democratic regime reinstated him in his job, and the first thing he does is to fight against democracy. He is an ingrate and a traitor! He is fired! There are many Arnulfist Party members who do not have a job. I am going to give them jobs in Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification. There are many Arnulfists without jobs. I will bring these people here now to give them jobs! [end recording]

Rosas on Punishment for Strike Leaders

PA0712042190 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Report on interview with Labor Minister Jorge Ruben Rosas by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Labor Minister Jorge Ruben Rosas has said that the punishment to be imposed on the strikers is justified because the government's institutions cannot be paralyzed at the present time.

[Rosas] The labor code specifies that a day's salary will be deducted from those who failed to show up to work. The president announced that he will dismiss the public employees who organized the strike, which as we all know, was not permitted by the law. It was a forceful action which took a different turn by coinciding with the military uprising.

[Reporter] Now that the labor leadership is in disarray, what will be done about its demands, some of which were actually justified?

[Rosas] Among them is the 13th month bonus, which is a legitimate demand. The proper government officials have said, however, that it cannot be paid under the current circumstances. The president of the Republic has promised to deliver the civil service career and the general salary law. He is working on the drafts that will be submitted to the legislative assembly. The president of the Republic and the Executive Branch have already made this decision.

The government's position is to resume a broad dialogue with representatives of the workers and employers, that is with the two factors of production, to discuss measures that will lead to the country's economic recovery and national reconstruction within a broad national consensus which would certainly include measures agreed upon by the three parties.

Argentina

Menem Evaluates Bush Visit, Praises Talks

PY0612125090 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 1140 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Impromptu news conference by President Carlos Menem at the Metropolitan Airport following the departure of U.S. President George Bush—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Could you evaluate President Bush's visit to Argentina? What did he say and what do you feel?

[Menem] It was very good. We will soon begin to see the results. Some agreements were signed before the visit and others are about to be signed. All fields of our relations have been taken into consideration. For obvious reasons, some subjects will not be made public for the time being but we have conducted intense, firm, and decided work. One must not just take into consideration the relations between the two countries, but also the great friendship that exists between the U.S. and Argentine presidents.

[Reporter] During your conversation with President Bush, did you discuss the possibility of war in the Persian Gulf and the attitude that the Argentine forces should adopt in such case?

[Menem] Yes, we talked about this. President Bush has to send a draft bill to the U.S. Congress requesting authorization to enter in combat in the Persian Gulf zone. Today we will ask our Congress to give an opinion on the subject. There is a possibility of war but Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, which it has occupied and annexed, has not yet been ruled out.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Menem] No, no. There will be two kinds of actions here: first, direct combat actions that will involve countries like the United States, Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and England; and then other countries will provide logistical support actions. This is the case of Argentina, whose two ships may guard the Gulf entrance, but this will be decided by Congress.

[Reporter] Was the subject of the Malvinas Islands mentioned by the U.S. President?

[Menem] No, not at all, because we are directly dealing with this subject.

[Reporter] The foreign debt was mentioned by the U.S. President in the news conference...

[Menem, interrupting] Beside, there has been a long, profound talk between the U.S. economic team headed by Mr. Brady and our economic team headed by Minister Gonzalez. Things are going well. I think that next year we will have a clearer perspective than this year.

[Reporter] Mr. President, changing the subject, regarding last Monday's rebellion, it has been rumored that some financial groups gave money for the rebellion, what can you tell us?

[Menem] Obviously; elementary, my dear Watson.

[Reporter] What do you know about these groups, who are they?

[Menem] This is being investigated, and it will be thoroughly investigated, because blood has been spilled. Nobody will escape punishment, absolutely nobody.

[Reporter] Will Seineldin be brought to Buenos Aires for trial?

[Menem] I do not know, that will be decided by the court martial which is currently working around the clock.

[Reporter] Have you ordered military justice to investigate him?

[Menem] This is a matter of understanding, and it will be decided by the judges. The military judges are currently investigating the case.

[Reporter] Do you endorse the participation of military justice?

[Menem] [passage indistinct].

Demonstration Protesting Bush Visit Staged

PY0612132490 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Dec (NA)—Some 10,000 people marched on Plaza de Mayo last night to repudiate the visit of U.S. President George Bush.

The mobilization strongly expressed opposition to the government and rejected both President Carlos Menem and his U.S. counterpart.

The numerous columns of demonstrators from leftist parties and leftist youth organizations were enlarged by Peronist youth sectors and small groups of former Malvinas combatants. The turnout surpassed the expectations of the demonstration organizers who were not anticipating such a massive attendance before the march got under way.

For almost one and one-half hours, the demonstrators marched from the corner of Callao and Corrientes Avenues to Plaza de Mayo, where they arrived at 2105. At this point they met up with the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo who were staging their 10th march of protest against President Bush's visit. They held placards that read "Out of Argentina, Bush;" "Malvinas Hangman;" "Bush, You Are Not Welcome [Malvenido Bush]," etc., while chanting slogans against imperialism, the "Menem-Bush Adjustment [Ajuste de Menem y Bush]," and the pardons that President Menem plans to grant [to

sentenced military officers]. The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo group started their march just after 2000.

A huge, six-meter-high effigy of Uncle Sam with a sash of the U.S. flag on its chest rode on a pickup truck in front of the marchers.

The march was headed by leaders Nestor Vicente from the Idepo [People's Democratic Left], Luis Zamora and Marcelo Parrilli from the MAS [Movement to Socialism], Patricio Etchegaray from the PC [Communist Party], Gregorio Flores and Catalina Guadagni from the PO [Workers Party], Marcelo Frondizi from the Free Fatherland Faction, and Colonel Eduardo Ballester, vice president of the Cemida [Military Center for Argentine Democracy].

Disturbance in Congress During Bush Visit

PY0612210890 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 6 Dec 90 p 11

[Excerpts] (DYN-NA)—Scuffles and shouting marred the welcoming ceremony for US President George Bush at the House of Congress yesterday.

The main protagonists in the embarrassing interlude were Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) Deputy Luis Zamora (the only legislator not to stand up and applaud when Bush entered the chamber) and Democratic Centre Union (UCeDe) Deputy Alberto Albamonte.

Zamora, from his bench in the last row of the assembly, called on Assembly Speaker and Vice President Eduardo Duhalde for leave to address the House, repeatedly interrupting Duhalde's opening speech.

Bush ignored the interruptions and jotted down notes for his speech in his pad.

Legislators from the UCeDe block added to the disturbance with shouts of "Shut up!"

Duhalde, visibly unsettled by Zamora's interruptions, broke off his speech to answer him: "You may not take the floor, Deputy."

By then, UCeDe Deputy Albamonte had moved over next to Zamora shouting "Son of a b....! I'm going to beat the s... out of you!" while another UCeDe Deputy, Federico Zamora (no relation), pushed Zamora from behind.

Zamora, Luis, not Federico, was finally bounced out of the chamber by Radicals Porfirio Carrera and Alfredo Orgaz with some help from Albamonte.

"I'm leaving but not without repudiating the visit of the President of the United States to Argentina and to this House of Congress, where the representatives of a people who are starving because of this government's policies are gathered," Zamora shouted as he was being bundled away.

Near the exit, Albamonte reportedly thumped Zamora in the face, while he was immobilized by security guards.

"I left because I don't want to be part of that circus," Zamora afterwards told reporters.

Comments on the Zamora-Albamonte episode: [passage omitted]

"Echoes of old ideologies promoted by Marxist fanatics who haven't yet realized that the Berlin Wall has fallen," said Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo. [passage omitted]

"It seems we've got a Carapintada [Painted Face] in Congress," President Carlos Menem told reporters at the Rural Society last night.

Support for Military Action in Gulf Proposed

PY0612183190 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 3 Dec 90 p 5

[Text] Argentina will not adopt a belligerent attitude in the operations that could be carried out in the Persian Gulf, reserving its right to continue participating in the conflict as a peace force. This week the government will submit to Congress a bill requesting authorization to support the possible military confrontation within the framework of Resolution 678 issued by the UN Security Council.

The executive branch thus rescinded its initiative to actively participate in the military actions scheduled [previstas] for the second half of January. The government, in principle, analyzed the possibility of actively participating in the struggle against Saddam Husayn's government.

Government sources confirmed that the decision to reverse the attitude was made after a survey conducted at Congress, where the proposal reportedly will not be approved.

The government decision reveals an ambiguous position because any cooperation with the belligerent states could be considered active intervention. Argentina sent the destroyer Admiral Brown and the corvette Spiro to the Persian Gulf.

According to Foreign Ministry reports, Resolution 678 issued on 29 November gives Iraq a deadline of 45 days to unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait. The resolution is in keeping with Chapter 7 of the UN Charter which refers to the "action in case of threat to peace." Based on this fact, the reports say that on authorizing countries to use all necessary means to make Iraq comply with the UN Security Council resolution, three categories are created among the states which will participate in the armed confrontation.

They add that in one paragraph appropriate aid is requested for those states who belong to the first category (belligerent countries). The Foreign Ministry experts say

that a different category is therefore created for those countries which indirectly participate in the conflict, and it is created in such a way to prevent them from taking part in the military actions.

The reports say that under this paragraph Argentina could maintain its two ships in the area and continue its efforts to make Iraq comply with the sanctions imposed through Resolutions 661 and 665, "a fact which does not mean direct and belligerent participation." The reports add that the resolution authorizes each state to use force. In this case, each state could act independently from the others and without the establishment of a joint command.

According to the opinion of the Gulf Group specialists, the resolution does not provide for the participation of the UN armed forces (Blue Berets); consequently, each military troop will act under its own banner. It also allows the United States to directly or indirectly participate in the military confrontation. The reports also state that the Persian Gulf crisis is not just another conflict but a serious problem which threatens the stability and the credibility of the international security system. "The new international political system based on peace and cooperation is at stake," the reports add.

The bill to be submitted by the executive branch states:

Article 1: The executive branch is authorized to take the appropriate measures as of 15 January 1991 so that, in keeping with the request made to all states by the UN Security Council in the third paragraph of Resolution 679, the Argentine force in the Persian Gulf could effectively support the actions that may be carried out in compliance with the second paragraph of the same resolution.

Article 2: The executive branch will report to Congress on the measures to be adopted in keeping with the current law.

The document states that Iraq not only violated the sovereignty of Kuwait, with which it maintained diplomatic relations and an active economic and commercial exchange, but it also violated the basic principles of international coexistence.

The document adds that in the face of the development of the events that led the UN Security Council to issue Resolution 678, it is our desire that the Argentine force deployed in the Persian Gulf continue to comply with Resolution 665 in its effort to preserve peace and international security.

The document finally says: "It is our desire that the force continue to act as a peace force. Considering the call by the UN Security Council and the predictable development of the events, the national executive branch thinks that Argentina is obligated to provide its cooperation."

Menem Recounts Actions During Rebellion

PY0612140090 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1103 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Dec (NA)—President Carlos Menem has said there is "no difference" between the "Painted Faces" group that staged the military uprising last Monday and the subversives who tried to take over La Tablada military unit last January 1989. Both groups are "mentally insane," the president said.

Several times during the rebellion, Menem said, the "Painted Faces" tried to establish talks. They contacted Defense Minister Humberto Romero, Presidential Secretary Eduardo Bauza, and Army Commander General Martin Bonnet.

"The defense minister was contacted by Colonel Romero Mundani, the Painted Faces leader who was holding the TAMSE [Medium Argentine Tank Factory, State Enterprise] factory in Boulogne. The minister told him what I ordered him to say: 'The only conversation admitted is unconditional surrender,'" the president said.

Menem said that "General Bonnet was called by Mayor Hugo Abete, who was in the Patricios Regiment. Abete requested mediation. Bonnet's reply was: 'Unconditional surrender, in your underwear, barefoot, and with your hands up.'"

"Another man who identified himself as a handicapped lieutenant called later from the Army headquarters. He spoke with Eduardo Bauza. When Bauza brought me the message I told him: 'Tell him I am sorry he is handicapped but tell him to go to hell.'"

Menem said he remained calm and confident last Monday. He added: "I spent the whole day drinking mate [a tealike drink] and spitting out orders."

Menem admitted that "at a certain point" he felt "bad" and called Minister Romero to tell him: "By God, Humberto, do not keep me waiting. Why the hell is this not over yet?"

Menem said in an interview published in GENTE magazine: "I saw that victory was practically at hand, but everything was taking too long. When Brigadier julia spoke to me, my order was: Bomb them."

Bonnet Claims Rebellion Threatened Presidency

PY0612232290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1428 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Dec (TELAM)—Army Chief of Staff General Martin Bonnet said today that the 3 December military rebellion "was more than just a clash between Army sectors." He believes the rebellion could have been aimed at overthrowing the president.

When asked if demands related to deficiencies in the Army could have been used to overthrow the president,

Bonnet said: "I believe that was the reason; the real reason can be found there."

Concerning the rebellion Bonnet said: "I do not see it as a confrontation between sectors of the Army. The Army had to enforce order when it was obstructed. The Army fulfilled its mission. The other sector, the one that was wrong, was moved by other interests that were not military interests."

In a conversation with a radio station reporters, Bonnet said the leaders of the rebellion were "a minority within the Army. These people acted with noncommissioned officers from units in the Greater Buenos Aires area. Very few noncommissioned officers outside Buenos Aires supported the movement."

Bonnet added that the rebel officers used "the deficiencies that the Army is experiencing to deceive and even convince noncommissioned officers to commit this crime. I am sure that some of the people who participated in the action were not very convinced of the reasons for what they did."

Bonnet also said: "Unfortunately we cannot make this type of evaluation at a time when the Army is going through this situation and operations are being carried out. The mistake made by this seditious group has hurt not only the institution, but the entire country."

Bonnet said: "This is more than just a clash between Army sectors. These people could not have acted without support from people who do not belong to the institution. I believe they needed economic support to act the way they did."

Bonnet recognized that "the Army is going through very difficult times from the economic point of view." He added: "Despite the country's effort, our salaries are still not enough to really live with dignity. But that is not an obstacle to the Army's mission."

He also explained: "No one in the country could deny that this group was preparing something, but the information we had was by no means enough to allow an intervention before it occurred." He recalled that on 3 December, "despite the fact that five seditious centers were created, the Argentine Army sent its orders through the appropriate channels and an action was carried out in an organized manner in accordance with Army regulations. Roads were covered, there was fighting in populated zones, the mission was fulfilled, and time schedules were set and obeyed. There was a clear sense of duty and this is why the Army was able to quickly achieve a takeover of the seditious centers, not their destruction."

Bonnet said: "This was the culmination of a series of actions that were taken for various reasons." He added: "If at that time the chief of the Armed Forces did not have a clear concept of the policy to be followed by the Armed Forces, perhaps the operation to recover the sites occupied by the seditious groups could not have organized as it was."

Bonnet said: "An incorrect policy since 1983 has made the Armed Forces suffer all these years. Democracy cannot be imposed by crushing its basic institutions. On the contrary, it is imposed by giving life to democracy and putting it in the right place. This is the clear policy that the Armed Forces commander currently holds."

Rebellion Leader To Face Court Martial

PY0612211290 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 6 Dec 90 p 13

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—Retired Colonel and Carapintada [Painted Face] leader Mohamed Ali Seineldin, who has claimed responsibility for Monday's [3 December] rebellion, will be taken from Neuquen Province where he is currently confined to barracks to face the Armed Forces Supreme Council in the next 48 hours.

Defense Minister Humberto Romero confirmed that all officers and noncommissioned officers involved in Monday's rebellion will be "cashiered," and affirmed that "no military group will be allowed to disturb the country with a rebellion again."

Two other high-ranking officers, Colonels Oscar Vega and Enrique Baraldini, will be questioned today by the Armed Forces Supreme Council, who yesterday questioned officers in charge of government troops involved in putting down Monday's rebellion.

A fourth colonel, Jorge Romero Mundani, was found dead in a tank captured by Carapintadas in the Mercedes District after reportedly taking his own life.

The nine-man Supreme Council were originally going to try only the senior officers involved in the rebellion but has decided to try all rebels. [passage omitted]

Brazil

U.S. Consulate Vehicle Attacked in Rio de Janeiro

PY0612224690 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] A U.S. Consulate vehicle has been attacked by 12 men firing machine gun bursts and all the diplomatic correspondence has been stolen. The attack occurred on one of the main access roads to Rio de Janeiro. The vehicle was carrying eight bags that had been sent from the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia. The bags had been picked up at the Rio de Janeiro international airport shortly before the attack.

The consulate vehicle was surrounded on Brasil Avenue by 12 men armed with machine guns and travelling in four vehicles; two of the vehicles crashed into the side of the consulate vehicle and the attackers fired a machine gun burst.

The attackers told two officers from the U.S. diplomatic post and the driver to surrender. Then two of the attackers fled in the consulate vehicle, taking the bags with them.

Today police discovered the consulate vehicle abandoned on a street in Vila Isabel, in the northern area of the city. Fingerprint experts were able to get prints, which are the only lead to the attackers. Bomb squad agents thoroughly searched the vehicle, and a passport and some papers were found inside.

The first information obtained by Federal Police was that the bags contained dollars, but this information was later denied by consulate officers. According to consulate officers, the bags contained documents. The story became more mysterious when the consulate officers gave their reports but could not say what kind of documents were to be found in the bags. This afternoon at the consulate, Attache (Freddy Emit) said he does not have the authorization to reveal the contents of the documents.

Tomorrow the Civilian Police will begin to listen to the testimony of witnesses who saw two men abandon the consulate vehicle some hours after the attack. Civilian and Federal Police, working together, are going to prepare Identikit pictures of members of the gang in an attempt to clear up the mystery of the theft of the bags.

President Collor Speaks at Bush Reception 3 Dec

PY0612173590 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Dec 90 p 8

["Text" of speech by President Fernando Collor de Mello at reception for U.S. President George Bush in Itamaraty on 3 December]

[Text] Brazil feels honored to receive the leader of an exemplary democracy. The presence of your excellency, President George Bush, is a landmark in the process of closer relations between Brazil and the United States. There are many factors as well as many topics on an agenda of positive connotations uniting us today.

Today we stand by our ideals of freedom, and we are kept together by links in all areas of exchange between nations.

Your excellency's visit takes place at an historic moment marked both by great achievements and great challenges in the international arena. The world's leaders are experiencing moments of great satisfaction as well as of justified concern. The optimism elicited by the promising horizon that came into view in recent months should be tempered by the not always happy reality of developments, by the dramatic truth of the conditions of poverty in which two-thirds of humankind still lives.

The suffering billions of men, women, and children throughout the world should be placed at the top of the agenda of international relations. We cannot allow the vaunted end of ideological bipolarization to make room for a much deeper bipolarization between the poor and the rich. In this regard, it can be asserted that there will be no solid and lasting peace as long as the notion prevails that the lives of some are more valuable than the lives of others.

The principle of solidarity should be the banner of the international community. Once the barriers of silence and obscurantism have fallen, the fact must be obvious that all men are meant to be equal, with the right to their own dignity and to their personal self-realization.

That is the foundation of the democracy we want to transform into a universal regime of national and international coexistence. Democracy, as the history of the United States indicates, can only be built on the leveled ground of equal opportunities. If we want to transform the world into a great democracy, we have to seek equal opportunities for all the peoples of the world.

Democracy is also the rule of law. To ensure stability for the lives of the nations, international laws must be strictly abided by, especially when such laws stem from decisions by the highest body of collective deliberation, such as the United Nations. Brazil and the United States stand together at this time for the implementation of the basic principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the specific resolutions of that body. The United Nations should be the forum where peaceful solutions are sought and, in crises like the one we now face in the Persian Gulf today, the body where all peace-seeking initiatives are attempted. In this way, our countries jointly promote the prospects for a better world, with true security and cooperation.

The democracy being established in Latin America today stands as the final achievement of our people, and nothing will prevail against it.

We know that freedom is a guarantee of a good government and that democracy in Latin America faces the challenge of development. We have to erase from our memory the impression that only authoritarianism can give us food and shelter. It has not been so historically. Authoritarianism has promoted perverse development, imposing unacceptable imbalances in income distribution and trampling on the citizens' dignity. Our democracy will create the conditions for social justice. Our partners, especially those countries in which democracy was born, should participate with solidarity in our efforts, assisting the search for solutions to pressing matters, such as the foreign debt and others, that are basic to the resumption of development.

Mr. President, for the third time since my election at the end of last year, we have had the opportunity to talk about the international situation and our bilateral relations. I am happy to see that we have already made an important advance in that period: The similarity, not the difference, in our views is now the keynote of our dialogue. We are walking down the only constructive path that is laid down by the objective recognition of our

natural differences and the invariable willingness to resolve them through understanding, negotiation, and mutual respect.

Brazil and the United States are two nations linked by a relationship of great intensity and variety, despite the difference in their stages of development. It is only natural that on some issues we should have different and even conflicting views. Our partnership is fundamentally based on the premise that our views can vary on specifics today because we are united by ideas and expectations for our countrymen and all men.

We talked this morning about five of the most important points on our bilateral agenda: the Americas Initiative, better known as the Bush Plan here; foreign debt; development and access to science and technology; GATT's Uruguay Round; and environmental conservation.

The Bush Plan signals the U.S. disposition to establish a constructive agenda with Latin America and to assign effective priority to economic cooperation with our region. This initiative comes at a crucial point in the process of Latin American integration that is aimed at strengthening our economies and at opening new possibilities for a more effective presence in the daily affairs of the international community. I see the Bush Plan as a promising prospect to definitively reconcile the unity of the Latin American people with strenghtened hemisphere-wide cooperation.

On the foreign debt issue, I can express my satisfaction with the way your excellency discussed this matter in an interview with a Brazilian newspaper, which I allow myself to cite: "The United States is anxious to see a long-term solution that is consistent with the international debt strategy, and that can give Brazil the opportunity to recover its economic health through economic and trade growth." I hope this attitude can be transmitted to the government and society not only of the United States, but also of the other creditor countries and international financial organizations. I rely on your sensibility and your leadership so that my hope can come true.

Regarding the debt, Brazil wants to reach an agreement it can fulfill. We seek to reach a serious commitment with the creditors and above all with the Brazilian people. In the past when agreements that could not be complied with were signed there was a high social cost to our people. My government can no longer demand sacrifices unless it is convinced that this effort will be the price of a consistent, balanced, and feasible solution. The public commitments must be resolved with prudence because they involve the interests of several generations.

The Brazilian economy is going through difficult times. We are implementing a strong reform program that seeks to restore our ability to grow. We have a socioeconomic picture of inequalities and shortages that must be corrected urgently. This is incompatible with social stability and human dignity. Creditors need to have a clear head and an understanding of this fact. We are not dealing with a bank problem but with a problem affecting the 150 million people of one of the world's largest and most important countries.

Mr. President, Brazil does not blame other countries for its development problems. We are well aware of our historic responsibility for what we are, but we cannot fail to recognize the problems arising from our interaction with the international community.

I must convey Brazilian concern over the many obstacles that obstruct our access to scientific and technological knowledge. At a time when strategic-military considerations are losing relative importance, those obstacles can only serve to increase the distance separating the developed and the developing countries. This is not a good road for building a secure world and can, on the contrary, make it more unstable when part of humanity sees the benefit of progress far away but cannot reach it.

Free access to information is one of democracy's pillars. So, if this premise is true for political development, it should also be true for economic development. To once and for all counter arguments justifying restrictions to our access to advanced technology, last week I signed with President Carlos Menem an understanding allowing for negotiation of a safeguards agreement, including appropriate modifications to the inventory and control system, with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Even before this proof of clarity in its exemplary relations with Argentina, Brazil had unilaterally renounced detonating nuclear explosions, even for peaceful purposes. We are now determined to establish conditions for the full enforcement of the Tlatelolco Treaty.

Brazil and Argentina have set an example to the world that democracy is the best foundation for friendship and that friendship is the only way to build true peace.

Brazil and the United States understand that the GATT Uruguay Round stands at the crossroad of historic decisions. There we have the possibility of changing the course of the international economic system and of ushering in an era in which free trade begets the sound growth of nations. Brazil is open to the world and is now undertaking a noticeable liberalization of trade to ensure its more competitive integration in the world's economy. Espousing a philosophy of free trade, Brazil and the United States are working together to remove the largest obstacles to the sucess of the GATT negotiations, whose results should not only be well balanced, but should also represent a definitive victory over protectionism.

The current economic difficulties and the sacrifices required have not discouraged Brazil from assuming a vanguard position in the international defense of the environment. From its position as a priority target for criticism by the world's public, we have moved to a position of leadership in the crusade for reconciling economic development with environmental conservation, considering that underdevelopment is one of the fundamental causes for the destruction of nature. Brazil will not make the mistakes of countries that arrived

earlier in the industrial era. Brazil will continue to call for a new model of international development, a model where waste is minimized and harmony with nature maximized, a model where all countries have access to the so-called clean technologies.

I am inviting all heads of state and government to attend the UN Conference on Environment and Development that Brazil will host in 1992. I now renew my invitation for your excellency to honor us with your presence in that occasion.

Nature is not just the surroundings but the essence of our lives. At stake is nothing less than the future of man on the face of the earth.

Mr. President, the exercise of dialogue in foreign relations is an extension of the democracy we practice at home, a road from which we will not depart but rather will consolidate by making it more dynamic.

Looking down that road, which is the road that brought your excellency to Brasilia, I invite you to toast to the health and happiness of President George Bush, the prosperity of the American people, and the progress of Brazilian-U.S. relations.

Collor Address on Treaty With Argentina

PY0612142990 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Nov 90 p A 6

["Text" of the speech by President Fernando Collor de Mello during the ceremony in which he signed a nuclear agreement with his Argentine colleague, Carlos Menem, in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, on 29 November; including "passage Collor did not read"]

[Text] Your Excellency Dr. Carlos Menem, president of the Argentine nation:

The declaration that we have just signed merits, like few others, being termed as historic. It marks the beginning of a new phase in our bilateral relations to the nuclear field, creates the possibility of joint negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Authority [IAEA], and is a step toward the signing of the Tlatelolco Treaty.

Therefore, the understanding that we have reached today is not only primarily for the satisfaction of our own countries; it is also a satisfaction for the countries of Latin America and other regions. Proof of this interest is the presence of our guests and witnesses, Dr. Stempel Paris, secretary general of the organization for the Proscription of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, and Professor Hans Blix, director general of the UN IAEA.

With this document we have given a conclusive step for the total overcoming of any type of competition between our countries in the nuclear field. This crowns the process that began with the signing of the 1985 Joint Declaration on Nuclear Policy that was signed in this same city.

The impressive speed of the transformations on the international scene did not take Brazil and Argentina by surprise. We were already increasing our cooperation, supporting the supplementation of our programs, and strengthening the clarity of our intentions through joint declarations on nuclear policy that were later signed in Brasilia, Viedma, and Ezeiza, and within the framework of presidential visits and reciprocal technical missions. In sum, we were already preparing for this moment of notable understanding and of a notable agreement of purposes that makes us brothers at this time.

At a time when the world is applauding the peace that was harshly achieved after two world wars and long years of cold war, our two countries proudly make a precocious beginning to our process of mutual opening and confidence in the nuclear field. Without having experienced the cruel lessons of conflicts or the sterility of military competition, our countries have demonstrated that they know that science and technology serve peace better than war does.

With democracy restored, we are dedicated exclusively to those ideals that distinguish modern and civilized countries: economic growth, social development, preservation of the environment, the promotion of world peace, prosperity, and the happiness of our people.

As I said in Buenos Aires in July of this year, the consolidation of a common destiny between Brazil and Argentina has contributed toward strengthening democracy in our countries and ensuring continental peace.

Mr. President and dear friend Carlos Saul Menem,

The initiatives that have been agreed upon today are absolutely innovating. We have approved a common inventory and control system that will be implemented and applied to all nuclear activities in the two countries, including the activities of enriching and reprocessing. Within the next 45 days we will exchange information on all nuclear installations and materiel that exist in Argentina and Brazil. In sum, we will proceed with the first reciprocal inspection of the centralized registry systems. These initiatives guarantee the total mutual clarity and openness of our nuclear programs for the eyes of our peoples, the eyes of Argentine and Brazilian society.

Projecting our dialogue toward the international sector, we have decided to jointly negotiate a guarantee agreement with the IAEA that will incorporate the adjustments that are appropriate to a common inventory and control system.

The Brazilian-Argentine decision to seek a new mode of cooperation with the IAEA opens a new area of scientific and technological exchange, thus opening up an international flow.

With great satisfaction I say that with our agreement of principles we will, once the safeguard agreement is formalized with the IAEA, seek to implement the Tlatelolco Treaty in our two countries, an event that without

a doubt will crown this singularly successful process of rapprochement between two great republics.

This series of steps taken in common agreement and at the same time consolidates an understanding that I term as exemplary. Within the developing world, Argentina and Brazil are among the countries that have advanced in the mastery of nuclear technology for peaceful means. This position has frequently caused us to face threats of restrictions, threats that were were not less efficient in inflicting moral and economic harm for being unfounded. On signing this declaration we are committing ourselves to implementing a series of trailblazing bilateral measures and proposals for the collective sphere, thus making our countries models of cooperation and integration with mutual confidence and understanding for all others.

Few nations, even among the developed ones, have the degree of clarity and cooperation with their neighbors that we have achieved here. Today Brazil and Argentina are talking in complete harmony, and this guarantees us a greater respect and a greater capacity to convince. The guarantees that we are exchanging are for us the ultimate reason for any other international guarantees. We know, and we would like others to learn the same lesson: that cooperation generates confidence, that integration consolidates security, and that the brotherly search for progress is the means of peace.

Therefore, because of their democratic desires, our peoples will therefore overcome any lack of confidence. We have once again proved our peaceful vocation, and we are approaching with a firm and accelerated step the great destiny that is reserved for the Argentine nation and the Federative Republic of Brazil. Thank you very much.

"The Passage Collor Did Not Read"

The Brazilian-Argentine readiness to seek a new type of cooperation with the IAEA begins a promising era in the relations of our two countries with the international community in the area of scientific-technological exchange. This gesture shows that, since we have nothing to hide, we do not reject additional guarantees of our intention to use nuclear technology for peaceful objectives. We firmly and consistently reject, however, prejudiced regimes that defend a politically unfair international order in which power is the only force.

Our insistence on using scientific knowledge exclusively for peaceful objectives confirms our permanent defense of the right to technological autonomy and to full technological training. This right cannot be denied under the increasingly phony excuse that the civilian objectives of our research may be distorted. Neither can it be denied as a way of subtly protecting economic privileges that transform past colonialist ideas into a harmful postcolonial treatment of knowledge.

I am certain—as your excellency must also be—that, added to the traditions of our peoples, to the integration process that unites us in the pursuit of a single objective, and to the reiterated announcements by our predecessors, the commitments made today and those that will become a reality in the near future are more than enough to ensure our free access to the international flow of scientific and technological exchange.

Chile

Aylwin Dinner Speech Honors President Bush

PY0712021690 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0022 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Speech by Chilean President Patricio Aylwin at dinner for U.S. President George Bush at La Moneda Palace in Santiago—live]

[Text] Your Excellency President Bush, ladies and gentlemen:

It is a pleasure for the Chilean people and their government to welcome the President of the United States, a nation with which we share a long-standing friendship. At this crucial time for mankind and for our fatherland, your visit, Mr. President, is an appropriate opportunity to strengthen the positive features of historical events that are occurring as the century nears its end.

Those features are founded in the principles that inspired the founders of our republics. Even though we belong to different cultural traditions, both Chile and the United States have forged a new world under the banner of freedom as the main foundation of our two nations. Our forebears maintained that all men are created equal because they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that government powers come from the approval of those who are governed, and that collective coexistence should conform to democratic norms and institutions. Our forefathers thus consecrated the values upon which both your fatherland and ours have built their history.

Destiny has created ties between us—sometimes with understanding and respect, sometimes with disagreement—because we were born as free nations.

The past teaches us that our relations were fruitful whenever the United States and Chile were faithful to the values that are the foundation of our identities. It is those values which today allow us to meet to build the future that was the dream of our forefathers and that we will bequeath to our children.

A wave of democratization is sweeping the world. This fact, which can only fill the heart of all men of goodwill with joy, has certainly strengthened the bonds between our two nations, calling on us to renew our efforts in the task of experiencing democracy and carefully preserving it. Over the past few years, Chile has been an example of this new era. Chile's recent history is the history of a nation that has struggled for peace in a peaceful manner, a nation that strongly loves freedom.

We Chileans are proud of returning to our democratic tradition, which distinguished us for 150 years. The process we are experiencing is not the result of casual circumstances, but of the maturity of a nation that prefers understanding to confrontation, dialogue to force. The Chilean people have learned the cost of intransigence and dogmatism through their own pain.

It has been a long path, and both the ruling party and the opposition have walked along it. This has made it possible for us to progress in reconstruction of our democracy and in resolution of the our fellow countrymen's most pressing problems.

Our main efforts have been aimed at promoting true national reconciliation. Toward this end, it is necessary to heal the wounds that are still open.

This is why we will continue to do everything in our power to discover the truth and serve justice to every possible extent, especially in human rights violation cases and certainly including those of Ronnie Moffit and Orlando Letelier.

We are also meeting the major challenge of promoting a development strategy through which we can move forward toward economic progress and overcome poverty in democracy, with freedom and social justice.

The path we have chosen conforms to our own beliefs. It is true that it has restricted our actions, something that has been hard for some Chilean transition observers to understand. Yet it is precisely this delicate balance between continuity and change that has allowed us to be certain we are building a sound system for this and future generations.

The document signed in Paris two weeks ago that formally put an end to the cold war shows that this is the right time to consolidate new methods for meeting the challenges of the present with flexibility, creativeness, and solidarity. This is the right time to face, with new energy, the major problems that affect mankind today; to overcome the poverty affecting millions of people around the globe; to preserve the environment for our own and future generations; to fight drug trafficking, which has been a scourge for youth in particular; and to promote denuclearization and the ban on chemical and biological weapons, which remain a threat to the survival of mankind.

Today there are prospects for cooperation which would have been unthinkable a few years ago, prospects in which Latin America has an active role to play. Through the strengthening of confidence between our nations and through the creation of new bilateral and multilateral ties, the countries of our region are positively heading for real rather than rhetorical integration. We are thus strengthening the world's security.

On the new international arena, the Persian Gulf crisis is a conflict which has both disturbed and cast a shadow on mankind. The UN answer, which Chile has unconditionally supported, reveals that today more than ever, there is a concerted will to preserve international law as the foundation of international coexistence.

Dear Mr. President, I cannot fail to tell you that we deeply appreciate the resolute efforts by you personally and by your government to defend the principles that have been broken by this condemnable invasion and, at the same time, to settle this crisis peacefully. We wish you success in your efforts because they reflect mankind's aspiration for peace.

Changes in the international economy also offer new possibilities for our countries. At the regional level there is a growing consensus on the need to decentralize the allocation of resources, eliminate barriers to development of the private sector, and promote free trade and international competitiveness.

In this context, economic growth depends to a great extent on the people's creativity, efforts, and capacity for renewal. Chile has taken this step and is willing and ready to strengthen further steps. In an interconnected world, however, our desire and our efforts are necessary, but not sufficient. We also want the more industrialized nations to be committed to actions more than words, with freedom of trade and a genuine opening of the market.

Today our exports are finding serious barriers in the markets of the developed world. As you said a few days ago in Mexico, subsidies that distort trade and artificial barriers create winners and losers before the start of the game. Today these principles are also being put to test at the Uruguay Round of the GATT. We want to express our solidarity with all countries that aspire to truly free trade.

Chile is by tradition an export country, and for this reason, we want to compete with the quality of our products, not with a bureaucracy that wins markets by decrees.

When President Eisenhower visited Chile he told our National Congress how his country appreciated the efforts of other free nations to strengthen their prosperity through the reduction of trade barriers and the maximum use of resources. He added that a common market must intend not only to increase trade in the region, but to increase the level of world trade.

Mr. President, 30 years later, the Americas Initiative that you proposed has opened very interesting prospects for fulfillment of that desire. Your vision of a free trade zone throughout the entire continent is in line with the aspirations and interests of Americans of the north, center, and south. This could be an historic opportunity. Let us not disregard it. We must establish deadlines, mechanisms and ideas, and flexibility to carry it out gradually, allowing the economies that are prepared to open and be integrated to do so as soon as possible, either bilaterally or multilaterally.

Chile wants to actively join this process, in accordance with our policy of participation in the international markets.

Mr. President, relations between our two countries have deteriorated over the past few years due to painful events lamented by both the Chileans and the North Americans. The events that caused that rift have now changed substantially. Ever since the beginning of the democratic government, we have made joint efforts to remove the obstacles that made normal relations difficult between the United States and Chile. This has led to concrete results.

The permanent contacts between our governments and the meeting we had two months ago in the White House, have allowed us to advance solutions to the past and prepare bases for a new stage of cooperation.

We have received with satisfaction the abrogation of all measures that impeded complete bilateral relations. The recovery of the benefits of investment insurance through the Overseas Private Investment Corporation; the return to the Generalized System of Preferences; and the lifting of the Kennedy Amendment have made it easy to face pending matters with the new spirit of understanding we are forging. As part of this new spirit, we also value the U.S. Congress' approval of an aid program for our country's health and housing sector, and the master trade agreement already in operation to help resolve our differences in the trade sector and thus, favor an increase in investment.

Mr. President, your presence in Chile marks the beginning of another stage in relations between our two countries. A stage in which imagination and creativity must be put to use without old restrictions. A stage in which the love for freedom will not have to knock down walls, but will be used to build hope. A stage in which our nations will seek justice and solidarity.

This is our desire—and, today we repeat the words of President Lincoln: With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in.

Ladies and gentlemen, I invite you to toast President Bush for his success in his brave search for peace in a more humane world, the U.S. people, and the friendship that exists between our nations.

May God bless the Americas. [applause]

Senators Approve Bush Speech to Congress

PY0712035490 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Osvaldo Campos report]

[Text] Chilean senators have unanimously praised President Bush's remarks to Congress in favor of Chile. Senator Sergio Onofre Jarpa, of the National Renewal Party, stressed a passage of the speech in which the U.S. President praised the Chilean economy over the past few years. Jarpa also praised Bush's words against protectionism, although he noted the inconsistency between his remarks and facts.

[Begin Jarpa recording] Of course there is an inconsistency between his remarks and the facts in this matter. It is not sufficient to say protectionism is not good while measures are adopted to harm Chilean products in the U.S. market. I think it is important to speak clearly about this, and I hope President Aylwin will also talk about this matter very frankly so this visit will yield positive results to strengthen relations between the two countries. [end recording]

Senator Maximo Pacheco, of the Chilean Christian Democratic Party, said he was also very impressed by President Bush's speech, although he agreed that the U.S. President should have specified some pending issues between Chile and the United States.

[Begin Pacheco recording] It was not a concise speech, or a speech in which he discussed unusual matters; however, in a visit of this nature, support is expected. I understand, however, that in his talks with President Aylwin, the objectives will be fulfilled. [end recording]

Independent Senator Beltran Urenda, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said this visit will have very positive results for the country.

[Begin Urenda recording] Although it is true that some pending problems still exist, it is obvious that this visit has accelerated the process of finding solutions to some problems. This visit can also contribute to finding solutions to other problems that still present obstacles to our exports to the United States. [end recording]

Senate President Gabriel Valdes has said that in his private talk with Bush, the U.S. President expressed satisfaction with the solutions to problems that still prevail between Chile and the United States, and that they depend to a great extent on decisions adopted by the U.S. Congress.

Deputies React to Bush Address

PY0712042490 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] There were contradictory reactions among Chamber of Deputies members to the speech U.S. President George Bush delivered in Congress.

Antonio Viera Gallo, Chamber of Deputies president and PS-PPD [Socialist Party-Party for Democracy] bloc deputy, pointed out:

[Begin Gallo recording] I believe it was a very clear, very direct, straightforward speech without much demagoguery. In it he raised two basic ideas that are vital for us: One was the universal value of democracy, human rights, and public freedom, which I believe are vital for our transition. The other was a commitment to advance

toward a free trade zone in which Chile will play a key role, as he said. I believe these two ideas are something that the vast majority of Chileans share, beyond our political or doctrinal differences. President Bush's visit, therefore, has a very special significance. [end recording]

(Guillermo Junge), a Christian Democratic Party [PDC] deputy and chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee, said:

[Begin (Junge) recording] It represents a reaffirmation of the correct path in terms of democracy, economic growth, and a respect for human rights that our country is treading, a reaffirmation of Chile's full integration into the international community, and a challenge for the future inasmuch as a new stage in relations with the United States is beginning today.

I believe the government, Congress, and the private and social sectors must now take advantage of this opportunity by supporting the alternatives of Bush's special Americas Initiative. We must not forget that these possibilities are not contradictory, nor do they exclude Chile's cooperation and unity with the other Latin American countries. [end recording]

Also discussing President Bush's speech, National Renewal Party [PRN] Deputy (Federico Meckis) pointed out that he believed it was positive that the North American president emphasized the existence of a free political and economic system in Chile.

[Begin (Meckis) recording] There are things, however, that, if we do not describe them as bad, they are at least more or less bad; that is, enough with rhetoric on trade relations. I believe we are absolutely prepared to reach a free trade treaty with the United States and, for the time being, remove all non-tariff barriers existing today such as the marketing orders [preceding two words in English] that are harming Chilean fruit production.

Furthermore, not a word was said about what many of us Chileans were expecting to hear—that Chile will be paid what is its due as a result of the inconsiderate U.S. decision on the alleged poisoned grapes, which were never poisoned in Chile. The United States must pay for this mistake due to its responsibility in this matter. [end recording]

For his part, UDI [Independent Democratic Union] Deputy (Patricio Melero) said:

[Begin (Melero) recording] On the positive side was the recognition that Chile has been the country with the most sustained economic growth over the past seven years; this is a significant sign of the good results Chile has achieved and also represents a challenge for the current authorities to maintain.

On the negative side, although the President intends to achieve greater integration and a greater development of bilateral trade relations and of what he has named the Americas Initiative, President Bush's speech did not raise concrete proposals or concrete solutions to some problems involving precisely those trade relations, problems that are still pending such as the issues of tariffs and of the poisoned grapes. [end recording]

It would have been desirable for President George Bush to mention the case of the poisoned grapes that caused our country to lose $330 million, Deputy (Patricio Melero) finally pointed out.

Bilateral Free Trade Talks With U.S. Announced

PY0712122490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 7 dEC 90

[Text] Chile and the United States have agreed to start formal talks at the technical level to draw up a free trade bilateral agreement.

This was announced by Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley after meeting for several hours with U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and Treasury Under Secretary David Mulford.

Minister Foxley said that the talks with the high-ranking authorities of President George Bush's economic team were focused on investments, the debt, and trade.

Foxley said that the U.S. authorities noted that investments will come from IDB funds that will strengthen the integration process.

The issue of the debt was also raised during the meeting. The U.S. authorities said that the amounts by which it will be reduced will be established in the near future.

Minister Foxley said that because Chile has recently managed to reschedule its foreign debt, it is not particularly interested in this subject. He added that Chile will not request a reduction because one has already been offered to Chile and it will be up to Bush's Americas Initiative to determine the ammount by which it will be reduced.

Foxley ended by stating that the path toward a trade agreement with the United States will not be easy because it has to be monitored by the U.S. Congress. He said that he hopes that these negotiations will conclude successfully.

Officials Assess Meetings With U.S. Team

PY0712032090 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Carmen Castro report]

[Excerpts] The activation of a consultative system at all levels of bilateral relations was the most important conclusion reached by Chilean and U.S. Government advisory teams. The teams met at the Foreign Ministry. Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Edmundo Vargas and Bernard Aronson, assistant secretary for Inter-American affairs for the U.S. Government, held a meeting that lasted for one and a half hour hours. [passage omitted]

For Edmundo Vargas, the important results of the meeting were the current situation of the Letelier case and Chile's involvement, the poisoned grapes problem, the general terms of Armed Forces cooperation, cooperation in the Pacific Basin, joint tasks for protection of the environment, and strengthening democracy.

Edmundo Vargas said that, during the meeting this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry, an important agreement was also appreciated [words indistinct] our governments and the intention of the two countries to initiate a more active system of consultations.

Defense Minister Patricio Rojas, among others, was present at the meeting. He emphasized the level of relations between the Armed Forces of the two countries.

It has been leaked that two issues were basically addressed during the meeting—namely, the U.S. position and situation with regard to the Persian Gulf problem and the Americas Initiative. The discussion also centered on Chile's participation in a solution to the Letelier case, taking to court those who are appear to be involved in that crime.

Pinochet Expresses Thanks for Bush Recognition

PY0612222490 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Nelson Oteica report]

[Excerpt] Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet has expressed thanks for what he termed President Bush's recognition of his military regime for promoting the free market. He made these remarks in referring to President Bush's speech at Pudahuel Airport.

[Begin Pinochet recording] I thank President Bush because he recognized the previous government for the results obtained in promoting the free market. [end recording]

Gen. Pinochet left the airport after making these brief remarks. [passage omitted]

Air Force Chief, Foreign Minister View Bush Visit

PY0612233290 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Air Force Commander Fernando Matthei has termed President George Bush's visit to the country as interesting. He said that although the Air Force was not greatly affected by the restrictions imposed by the Kennedy Amendment, the lifting of this measure is important and opens new possibilities for Chile in the defense sector. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma stressed the Latin American nature of Bush's visit, noting the joint action of these countries. He added that this visit is another example of Chile rejoining the international community. [passage omitted]

Anti-Bush Demonstration Held in Valparaiso

PY0612235490 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Excerpt] A small group of hotheads tried to stage a demonstration against President George Bush while the U.S. President was leaving the Congress building in Valparaiso. The incident took place at the intersection of Pedro Montt Street and Argentina Avenue. The group burned a U.S. flag and shouted insults at President Bush.

The North American president was apparently scheduled to get out of his limousine at that site to greet people. In view of this incident, however, this did not occur and President George Bush and his entourage quickly went on their way to the [name indistinct] airport, where he boarded a helicopter for Santiago.

The demonstration at the intersection of Pedro Montt Street and Argentina Avenue was quickly dispersed by Carabineros personnel who also struggled with journalists, photographers, and cameramen who were nearby.

It has been leaked that a total of 12 people were detained, including some other people who also tried to stage a demonstration elsewhere on Pedro Montt Street in Valparaiso. [passage omitted]

Communists Claim Bush Harms National Dignity

PY0712000890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Communist youth stated today that the presence of U.S. President George Bush harms the dignity of the Chilean and Latin American peoples because of the long-standing policy of usurpation that imperialism has implemented in our continent.

A statement issued by the PC [Communist Party] says: We maintain that the U.S. Government is directly linked with the 1973 coup in Chile and with actions such as the murder of Orlando Letelier in Washington, D.C., when Bush was chief of the CIA, an organization with links to the former DINA [National Intelligence Directorate].

The statement also demands of the Chilean Government that any economic agreement with the United States be completely symmetrical, favoring the interests of Latin America and particularly Chile, and refusing to grant guarantees demanded by imperialism that only benefit its own colonialistic interests.

Students Demonstrate Against Bush Visit

PY0612233690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] There were serious incidents after 1300 today in the vicinity of the central campus of the Metropolitan University of Educational Sciences on Jose Pedro Alessandri Avenue in Macul. The incidents were staged by students of that university who protested U.S. President George Bush's visit.

The demonstrators threw stones and blunt objects at Carabineros personnel who came to the area to disperse the crowd. The demonstrators also burned a U.S. flag while waving Cuban flags. As a result of the students' violent action, traffic was halted for over 2 hours.

Carabineros had to resort to tear gas and water cannons to disperse the demonstrators.

20 Arrested in Anti-Bush Santiago Protest

PY0612185190 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The Carabineros have reported that 20 people were arrested during incidents which occured between 1900 and 2000 yesterday, 5 December, in the Plaza Italiano and in downtown Santiago to protest U.S. President George Bush's visit.

Four of those arrested are charged with causing minor injuries to Carabineros officers and damaging public property.

Those arrested were released after their addresses were recorded.

Police Track Stolen Diplomatic License Plates

PY0612190290 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] A few minutes ago four diplomatic license plates were stolen from vehicles parked near the Valparaiso Congress building. Carabineros and U.S. security forces, along with the investigative police, have adopted very strict measures, and will check all vehicles entering the downtown area where the Valparaiso Congress building is located. President George Bush is scheduled to arrive here at 1600 today.

The situation is very serious because the stolen license plates can be used by a nondiplomatic car. For this reason strict security measures are being adopted in Valparaiso. Diplomatic cars will also be checked.

FPMR Claims To Bomb MacDonalds Restaurant

PY0612165090 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1615 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Reynaldo Berrenos report]

[Excerpts] Three persons who are believed to be members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] and who were riding in a taxi have detonated a medium-strength explosive device on the second floor of the MacDonalds restaurant in the Arauco Park area on Kennedy Avenue.

According to eyewitnesses, three young individuals arrived in a taxi and entered the MacDonalds at 1330 GMT. They went to the second floor, where they hurled an explosive device composed of 100 grams of ANFO [ammonium nitrate-fuel oil] and a safety fuse. They also left several FPMR pamphlets that repudiate U.S. President George Bush's visit to Chile. [passage omitted]

The explosion occurred on the second floor of the luxurious restaurant which is one of the newest MacDonalds, a U.S. fast-food chain.

The individuals were driving a Chevette with license number (G- 7394) which was stolen last night in the area of [Froilan Roa] and Macul Streets. The car was abandoned at the (Perez Rusovich) circle. Taxi driver Francisco Enriquez Araya was held by the extremists throughout the night. He was found today inside the car.

Mormon Churches Attacked; No Casualties

PY0712114290 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Five bomb attacks were perpetrated last night against Mormon churches. No casualties were reported.

Ministers Brief Journalists on Letelier Case

PY0712012490 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Manola Robles report]

[Text] We have said that President Patricio Aylwin does not require a foreign law to comply with our country's and our nation's commitment to resolve the assassination of [former] Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and his secretary, Ronnie Moffit. This is a matter of honor even if the Kennedy Amendment never existed.

This remark was made by Enrique Correa, secretary general of government, who, along with Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Edmundo Vargas, held a news conference for foreign journalists at the bunker [preceding word in English] of La Moneda Palace. At the last minute, the conference was joined by Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley, who had met with U.S. officials accompanying George Bush on his visit to Chile.

Questions focused primarily on the Letelier case. The ministers explained that as soon as the Cumplido Laws are approved, the president of the Republic will instruct his government to request a special judge. The two Chilean government officials pointed out that justice is a moral imperative and as soon as these laws are approved, it will be possible to reach the people involved since jurisdiction [for the Letelier case] will be changed from military courts to civilian courts.

The journalists also asked about progress in meetings with George Bush. The government officials indicated that progress has been made although no agreements will be signed during this visit; important steps will be taken, however, to reach such agreements in the future.

Enrique Correa said that, after the lifting of sanctions imposed on Chile just a few days before Bush's visit, only serious talks can now be held with the United States.

Questions were also posed with respect to the poisoned grapes issue, which has become a symbol of the protectionism of rich, developed nations such as the United States. Edmundo Vargas described the problem as complex and said he was not in a position to advance the measures or the path to be taken to find a solution suitable to national interests and conforming to the law. This is being studied, he concluded.

Aylwin To Request Special Prosecutor

PY0712015490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] President Aylwin will give instructions to request the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate the 1976 murder of Orlando Letelier in Washington. This information was provided by Enrique Correa, secretary general of the government, to the press in La Moneda Palace today.

Correa rejected comments by National Renewal leaders that nothing was accomplished this year. As examples of achievements, Correa mentioned the tax and labor reforms aimed at correcting past injustices, reforms which were discussed with National Renewal.

Correa was asked if the government will request the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate the murder of Orlando Letelier. He said:

[Begin Correa recording] The Cumplido Laws must first be approved. After the laws are approved, the president will give instructions to ask for the appointment of a special prosecutor so the people responsible for Orlando Letelier's murder can be tried in Chilean courts. This is our commitment. This commitment does not depend on any foreign legislation. This is a commitment we have with ourselves, with our country. [end recording]

Correa was optimistic about November's low inflation rate of 0.9 percent. He said: "The lower the inflation rate, the happier we will be."

Ecuador

* Social Christian Party Reiterates Opposition

* Founder Dissents

91SM0077A Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 19 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] Quito—The expanded national leadership of the Social Christian Party (PSC) meeting in this capital yesterday resolved to maintain its unyielding line of opposition to the government headed by Dr. Rodrigo Borja.

At the same time, it proclaimed that the action of the Social Christian bloc in the National Congress, led by Deputy Jaime Nebot Saadi, responds to the lines and resolutions adopted by the National Assembly and what was resolved by several sessions of the national board in support of the position of Social Christian legislators.

Sixto Duran

The meeting of the national Social Christian leadership was private, in accordance with its bylaws, and it was attended by architect Sixto Duran-Ballen in his capacity as former national president and founder of the party. Sixto Duran took a leading role in the meeting, which analyzed the contents and scope of his now-public private letter in which he criticizes and censures the action of Social Christian lawmakers and questions the support of those deputies for the agreement to grant amnesty to attorney Abdala Bucaram, the attempt to reorganize the Supreme Court of Justice by means of a simple resolution, and the disqualification of Luis Ponce Palacios, Conservative deputy from Pichincha, backing a representative from the MPD [Democratic People's Movement] instead.

Respect for Freedom of Expression

At the conclusion of the meeting, Duran-Ballen said the party's national leadership has recognized his legitimate right to disagree with the opinion of party leaders and that furthermore, his remarks and pronouncements on controversial political situations have been respected.

This is one more demonstration of the democratic spirit that characterizes our party, Duran-Ballen said, although he was very concerned about the new directions some would give the party. Duran-Ballen was extremely reserved and cautious on this point.

Ulterior Motives

On this point, the Social Christian bulletin says: "The proposals formulated by Sixto Duran-Ballen, who has spoken out in his letter, have been analyzed at length by the national leadership, which has democratically recognized Sixto-Duran's absolute right to make his opinion known on various political issues, along with suggestions on future actions.

However, we reject the malicious and biased use which adversaries and sectors outside the party have given to the letter signed by Sixto Duran-Ballen.

* Party Tactics Assessed

91SM0077B Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 19 Oct 90 p 7

[Commentary by Walter Spurrier Baquerizo]

[Text] The events that have taken place in Congress since 10 August have shaken the social and economic sectors with the greatest civic consciousness in the country.

First of all, the transformation of the Social Christian Party into a populist party has continued.

This process began with the second ballot of the 1984 presidential elections. Candidate Febres-Cordero waged

a first-ballot campaign that was spare in demagogic offerings and promised the adoption of a coherent economic policy.

On the basis of that campaign, he won a disappointing second place. His victory on the second ballot was achieved through his offer of bread, a roof over people's heads, and jobs.

Febres-Cordero's candidacy and victory in 1984 and the four years of his government established the Social Christian Party in Guayaquil and other sectors along the Coast to the point that it can now compete with the PRE [Ecuadoran Roldosist Party] for the favor of Guayaquil voters.

In 1990, under the leadership of Jaime Nebot, the Social Christians defeated the Roldosists, who did not have Abdala Bucaram in the legislative elections.

What originally appeared to be outward expressions and verbal excesses aimed at capturing the Bucaram voters ended up turning into substance. In other words, the Social Christian Party gave up its doctrine and position as a party of principles and loftiness as established by Camilo Ponce Enriquez.

Television shaped this change by showing Deputy Nebot's verbal assaults in unpublishable terms on the Socialist Party's Deputy Granda, something Leon Febres-Cordero never indulged in during his five years in Congress.

Perhaps his original moderate electorate would have justified this change in the Social Christian Party if it could wrest political leadership away from the PRE. However, within a matter of days, the Roldosist Party responded to the challenge of the Social Christians by committing an act in Congress that was even more censurable than Nebot's: a cunning, brutal, physical attack on three deputies who refused to grant amnesty to Abdala Bucaram.

On the day after these incidents, authored by two brothers of the PRE leader, there was a comfortable majority for amnesty with the support of the PSC [Social Christian Party]. This majority was made even more evident by the conspicuous absence of certain deputies from the government party who would reportedly have given the "No" on amnesty a majority and, in this case in particular, a "No" to the attack on the lawmakers.

I suspect that in Quito, the impact of both legislative events was greater than in Quayaquil. Since the current president is from Quito and from a center-left party and given the alternating system of Ecuadoran politics, there is a very great possibility that the second ballot in 1992 will be between Abdala Bucaram and Jaime Nebot, if the latter is the Social Christian candidate.

It is within such a context that one must understand the position of Sixto Duran-Ballen. The wing of the party he heads has not had a greater impact on partisan politics since 1988, to which the withdrawal from the party of Luis Ponce Palacios, elected deputy for the Conservative Party, attests.

There is a particularly strong faction in the capital that is also important in our city which holds that winning over the Roldosist Party by resorting to the latter's methods and objectives would not be a triumph but a defeat. Hence the fact that Sixto Duran-Ballen is publicly demanding that the Social Christian opposition stay within the bounds of a civilized policy.

The public missive implies that the architect will not allow the Social Christian Party to fight over the presidency with Abdala Bucaram in the arena of populism and untempered actions. Further, if the party continues to follow its current line, heeding the request of sizable social and economic sectors throughout the country, he would be willing to withdraw from the PSC and accept the presidential candidacy for another related party such as the Conservative Party.

For the third time during the current rightist regime, Sixto Duran-Ballen would be a candidate ensuring constitutional continuity and, for the first time out of these three, he would be an opposition candidate.

Paraquay

Rodriguez Speaks With Menem; Criticizes Rebels

PY0512163390 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Dec 90 p 9

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez has said that he regrets the events in Argentina and, referring to the rebels, lashed out at those who do not respect the democratic way. Yesterday afternoon the Paraguayan chief of state phoned President Carlos Saul Menem and expressed his solidarity, and the solidarity of our people and government. Rodriguez added that, according to his Argentine counterpart, fortunately everything has been resolved. Rodriguez described Menem as his "great friend."

Rodriguez said: "We have been talking and he (Menem) very quietly told me that the situation has been resolved and that he deeply regretted these unpleasant events." Rodriguez added that Menem told him that he is determined to defend democracy.

"Democracy continues to win and I believe that this is the hope harbored by every human being; it has long been our hope to live in democracy," Rodriguez added.

Rodriguez noted: "Let order be reestablished for the good of the democracy we are enjoying."

Asked to give his opinion as a military man, Rodriguez excused himself, saying that he did not want to speak as such. Rodriguez concluded: "If this had happened here, I would have been delighted to comment but I would not

like to voice an opinion on what has occurred there. Nevertheless, we sincerely regret this event."

Justice Minister Urges Lifting GSP Measures

PY0512163090 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 3 Dec 90 p 13

[Excerpt] Justice Minister Hugo Estigarribia this morning said that there is no longer "any justification for delaying" the lifting of the restrictive measure imposed by the United States on the Paraguayan Government within the framework of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). He spoke at the end of the open ceremony of a seminar for employers at the Feprinco [Production, Industry, and Commerce Federation].

Estigarribia said: "I think that the lifting of this measure should not be delayed because Paraguay has complied with all the promises that were made at the installation of the new administration. There is no justification for delaying it."

He said: "Paraguay had been sanctioned for having repressed union activities due to the lack of labor laws, but this situation has been completely overcome. Full union freedom prevails in the country. A record number of labor unions have been created since 2 and 3 February 1989 [date of military coup that ousted Stroessner], and a labor bill has been submitted to Congress. We have complied with all the promises and consequently there is no longer any justification for maintaining that restriction."

The U.S. Government has recently announced that it has reviewed the measures suspending the benefits of the GSP to Chile and to an African country. The review of this measure affecting Paraguay has been indefinitely postponed. The United States has demanded the submitting of the Paraguayan Labor Code as one of the conditions for lifting the measure. [passage omitted]

Union Leader Says U.S. GSP Sanction 'Unjust'

PY0612134390 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 1 Dec 90 p 12

[Text] Dr. Arturo Jara Avelli, president of the Paraguayan Industrial Union [UIP], has said that the tariff sanction that the United States has been imposing on Paraguay is unjust. He said that "we do not care" if this measure is lifted or not because it is a political sanction and we could never export manufactured goods to that country anyway.

Jara Avelli added that the draft Labor Code that Congress is studying and that was drawn up by CUT [United Labor Confederation] is "trash" because it contains unconstitutional clauses. The drafting of a new code is one requirement of the country from the North for again including Paraguay in the Generalized System of Preferences [GSP] by which exports can enter the North American market with tariff preferences.

Asked about Trade Representative Carla Hills' recommendation to President Bush that the sanction imposed on Chile be lifted but the sanction imposed on Paraguay be retained, Jara Avelli said: "I understand that it is a totally absurd sanction. There is no reason for it. Charges have been totally lifted, and all requirements have been met."

After he was told that the United States is demanding the implementation of a new Labor Code, Jara Avelli said: "Why do those officials not demand that U.S. Congress draft a code perpetuating labor union leaders in their posts? Let us see then if the North American Congress resolves the issue in eight days, as they want. A code is studied five or eight years in order to do something right. One cannot draft a code hastily. This demand comes from CUT, which is the only one that is placing obstacles in the way of the lifting. CUT is to be blamed for the effectiveness of the sanction. They are the only ones pressing for retaining the sanction."

Asked about his opinion on the Labor Code drafted by CUT and under study by Congress, Jara Avelli said: "It is a piece of trash. It is absurd. First, labor union leaders cannot perpetuate themselves in their posts. The right to remain in their posts [inamovibilidad] is unconstitutional. The Constitution only establishes such rights for judges and congressmen. Therefore, if they want to remain in their posts, the Constitution must be amended first."

Regarding the steps that UIP will take to achieve the lifting of the North American sanction, Jara Avelli said: "No steps. We do not care if the sanction is lifted or not because it is a political sanction and we could never export manufacutred goods to the United States anyway. The shipments that used to be made before the sanction continue to be made."

Kuwaiti Congressional Delegation Visits Congress

PY0612010290 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 5 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Yesterday, a delegation of congressmen from the Kuwaiti Government-in-exile met with the chairmen of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. They thanked the two chairmen for Paraguay's support for their cause; the Kuwaiti Government is seeking to recover its territory, which has been occupied by Iraq.

The foreign congressmen said human rights have been violated in their country, and as a result of actions by Saddam Husayn's men, the Kuwaiti people live in permanent fear.

Senate Chairman Waldino R. Lovera said he understood the unfairness of exile because, during Stroessner's dictatorship, he was also an exile.

Jose A. Moreno Ruffinelli, Chamber of Deputies chairman, gave the visiting congressmen a copy of the

declaration drafted by the chamber on 14 August. In it the Paraguayan congressmen rejected the invasion of Kuwait.

The delegation held separate interviews with the chairmen of the two chambers of Congress.

Briefs Press on Gulf Situation

PY0612011890 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 5 Dec 90 p 4

[All Kuwaiti names as published]

[Text] The multimillion dollar losses generated by the Persian Gulf crisis, which was caused by the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait, are estimated at over $200 million [number as published] just for the invaded country, according to a delegation that "absolutely and authentically" represents the Kuwaiti people.

Yasem Ramadan, accompanied by Ozman Ismail Hajji, Fouzi al Sabeet, and Salah Massoud, through their interpreter Alejandro Hamed Franco, granted a news conference yesterday at Hotel Excelsior where they are staying.

While Ramadan, head of the delegation, stressed the delgation's satisfaction with and recognition of the understanding of their situation by President Andres Rodriguez, Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken, the presidents of the two congressional houses, and representatives of Paraguayan society, Ozman Ismail Hajji explained the negative economic effect of the Persian Gulf crisis.

He began by saying there are two main aspects in the economic sector. The first is related to Kuwaiti domestic affairs and the other represents losses throughout the world as a whole. He added that there are two main components: One that directly affects Kuwait and another that stems from the Gulf crisis.

The losses within Kuwait are estimated at about $40 billion—attributed to systematic robberies by the Iraqi occupation forces, and involving private and government sectors. To this we must add another $12 billion caused by the suspension of revenues to the country and over $2 billion in the loss of savings for repatriated people who have been living and working in Kuwait.

As for the effect of the petroleum price increase from $18 to $35 per barrel, the Kuwaiti economist said it doubled the cost and expenses of each petroleum-importing country, estimating that it could amount to some $150 billion throughout the world. "Unfortunately, a large portion of this amount is paid by Third World countries," such as Paraguay. Moreover, this can adversely affect the normal development of socioeconomic projects in Third World countries.

Meets With Rodriguez

PY0712034690 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Dec 90 p 12

[Excerpt] President Andres Rodriguez held a special meeting yesterday with a delegation of Kuwaiti lawmakers. The visitors asked that Paraguay continue to maintain its position on Kuwait, whose exiled government is demanding the return of its territory, which was militarily occupied by Iraq.

At the end of the meeting, Yasem Ramadan [name as published], head of the official Kuwaiti delegation, told the press: "The main objective of this visit is to thank the Paraguayan Government and people for their fair position on the Kuwaiti struggle against the Iraqi military occupation."

Ramadan said: "We expressed our sincere opinion on the exiled Kuwaiti Government's demands. In this regard, we asked President Rodriguez that Paraguay continue to support the principles advocated by the Kuwaiti people. We found here full recognition of the principles we are advocating."

The Kuwaitis also met with Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken, Senate President Waldino Ramon Lovera, and Chamber of Deputies President Jose Antonio Moreno Rufinelli. They will also meet leaders of sociopolitical sectors. [passage omitted]

PCP Criticizes Soviet Position on Iraq

PY0612135990 Asuncin ABC COLOR in Spanish 5 Dec 90 p 4

[Text] The Paraguayan Communist Party (PCP) yesterday released a communique containing several points. One point expressed the party's surprise at the position adopted by the USSR at the UN Security Council, during which the Soviets voted for the use of force to put an end to the Persian Gulf conflict.

The PCP expressed its concern over the authorization the UN Security Council gave to the United States and to the multinational forces that are stationed in Saudi Arabia to resort to arms to solve the conflict.

"Our party supports the principle: 'Not a drop of blood for Middle East oil.' This principle is also supported by a large number of U.S. people who, like all other peoples, hope for peace and not war," the PCP communique stated.

It added that the PCP is convinced that U.S. imperialism is not concerned about the reestablishment of Kuwaiti independence. It only pursues interventionist and hegemonic objectives.

Concluding, the PCP pointed out that the middlemen benefit most from the Persian Gulf conflict because they speculate on the price of the oil, on the military-industrial complex—particularly that of the United States—and are instigating intervention against Iraq.

Itaipu Workers Decide Not To Strike

PY0612131190 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 5 Dec 90 p 13

[Special report by Fermin Jara]

[Text] Itaipu—For the time being, the Paraguayan workers of Itaipu Binational will not hold the strike they had announced. The strike was suspended because the labor union leaders reached agreement with the executives of the hydroelectric enterprise. An agreement was signed by representatives of the seven labor unions.

Nevertheless, it was nearly midnight when the final decision was made during a heated meeting among members of the various union organizations. Most of them were unwilling to accept the terms of the agreement, which they described as "shameful" and unfair. Therefore, the situation at Itaipu remains tense.

The labor representatives voted to suspend the strike for the time being. Those who were opposed to the strike won by a small margin. In view of this turn of the events, the Operations and Maintenance Department workers walked out of the assembly, stating that "we were beaten up once again."

It is appropriate to note that initially the dispute only involved some contractor companies that were not complying with their financial obligations to the workers as a result of the Brazilians' failure to remit operating capital to the binational entity. This was reported by a Conempa [Consortium of Paraguayan Construction Companies] executive who said that his company was fully complying with its responsibilities toward its workers and making huge sacrifices despite the nonpayment by the hydroelectric enterprise.

For their part, the Brazilian Itaipu workers decided to continue the suspension of their activities until their claims are met, a spokesman reported today. The strike began today at 0000.

Yesterday morning at the visitors center in the city of Hernandarias an agreement was signed between Itaipu executives and a federation comprising seven union organizations of Itaipu workers. Justice and Labor Minister Dr. Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche and General Porfirio Pereira Ruiz Diaz, public works and communications minister, were present. The first point of the document states that Itaipu Binational will be responsible for complying with the commitments assumed in previous agreements by which the labor union organizations commit themselves to present the appropriate documentation through 7 December 1990.

The second point makes it clear that in connection with the reports on the suspension, dismissal, and harassment of union leaders, the Itaipu enterprise commits itself to strictly observe the legal provisions with respect to Sticap [Alto Parana Construction Industry Union] labor union leaders Blas Canete, Julio Lopez, and Mario Cruz. It is stated that they were reinstated without detriment to their accrued retirement and social benefits. The Itaipu enterprise also authorizes Electromon, Inc. [expansion unknown] to reinstate Mr. Ricardo Vecca without detriment to his accrued retirement and social benefits.

The third point states that the sides pledge to appoint representatives to jointly verify the unhealthy, dangerous, and unsanitary conditions prevailing at the project site. The Itaipu enterprise pledges to comply with current rules as well as with the delivery of protective gear, honoring the petitions for benefits regardless of nationality, and updating the tables for housing allowances, travel allowances, and personnel reassignement. An Itaipu enterprise-contractors-workers joint conciliation commission [comision paritaria de conciliacion] will also be formed.

A tripartite joint commission (Itaipu enterprise-contractors-employees) will study the for the Auto-Rent Automobiles Workers Union [Sindicato de Rodados Auto-Rent], salary adjustments, upgrading of drivers, paid leave for leaders on union business, and housing allowances for bus attendants and administrative employees. The tripartite joint commission will study all these issues.

The union leaders make it clear that during a general assembly on Wednesday, 5 December, they will submit for the consideration of their respective members the agreements reached between the sides.

Peru

Torres on Drug Trafficking, Human Rights

PY0612172190 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Interview with Defense Minister General Jorge Torres Aciego by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] The Peruvian defense minister, General Jorge Torres Aciego, has denied that high-ranking military officers stationed in Alto Huallaga are involved in illegal drug trafficking as had been reported by a local newspaper. The minister denied this report after participating in a confidential meeting at the Senate.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, have you explained the charges that Army officers are involved in drug trafficking in the jungle area?

[Torres] The appropriate investigation is under way. Sometimes news media exaggerate, not everything is true. If anyone is found guilty, he will be punished.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, the Armed Forces claim that their infrastructure is obsolete and that they lack arms. To what extent is this true?

[Torres] Well...things have their lifespan. This does not mean that everything is obsolete. Materiel wears out all the time but it is being replaced. There are no problems in this regard.

[Reporter] What about human rights, sir?

[Torres] I have said many times and I will repeat once again: Human rights will be respected. I believe I talked to you several days ago and told you that I will take drastic action whenever human rights are violated. I repeated this on 1 December when I visited San Martin and Ucayali Departments. On that occasion and in the presence of local civilian officials, I again instructed all political-military commanders that we are fully committed to respecting human rights.

Fujimori Says Military Courts To Try Terrorists

PY0612220290 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori today announced the creation of military courts to try terrorists with the goal of expediting trials that are often bogged down in the judicial branch. Fujimori made this announcement during a ceremony to mark the second anniversary of the foundation of the national police. The ceremony was held at the Chorrillos police officers school.

Police Forces Break Up Teachers' Demonstration

PY0512150090 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Teachers of the Sutep [Trade Union of Education Workers] have again demonstrated outside the congressional building, protesting over the delayed payment of their salaries. Police forces were compelled to act forcefully to dislodge the demonstrators and reestablish public order.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Sutep members are protesting outside Congress where the ministers of interior and defense are holding a confidential meeting with the senators. Police forces have been called in and they are breaking up the demonstration. The doors of the congressional building have been closed in view of the demonstration by Sutep teachers who are protesting because they have yet been unable to collect their November salaries. Police officers are arresting Sutep demonstrators and clashes are taking place between police forces and teachers. Police officers are practically carrying one teacher who is resisting arrest.

[Unidentified teacher] Today is 5 December and we are still unpaid. Everybody else has been paid up until 30 October, but this government is trying to reduce and even withhold our salaries. [end recording]

Helfer Tenders 'Irrevocable' Resignation

PY0612024490 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Education Minister Gloria Helfer Palacios has tendered her irrevocable resignation from her post because she disagrees with the reduction of teachers' salaries. Helfer added that there are other reasons that led her to make this decision. Among these reasons, she mentioned the interests that prevailed against her moralization campaign. Helfer also accused APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] Deputy Carlos Rivas Davila of hindering the payment of salaries to education workers. [passage omitted]

Marchand on Coup Attempts in Argentina, Panama

PY0612221490 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Luis Marchand Stens has said that between today and tomorrow President Alberto Fujimori will finish reviewing the list of new ambassadors and send it to the Senate for approval. The foreign minister also discussed the resignation of the former education minister.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] the coup attempts in Argentina and Panama?

[Marchand] Well now, they have already been totally quenched. In addition, it is truly an affront and goes against historic events for military groups to attempt to disturb the democratic system that is now present throughout Latin America. [end recording]

* Fujimori's 'Authoritarian' Style Assessed

91SM0078A Lima CARETAS in Spanish 29 Oct 90 p 16

[Report by Fernando Rospigliosi]

[Text] Three months after President Fujimori took office, over half of all Lima residents approve of the way he is handling his job, according to an Apoyo poll (53 percent approving; 31 percent disapproving). The level of support is considerable given the fact that one of his first official acts was the shock of 8 August.

Under the previous regime, Alan Garcia's popularity rose considerably after three months in office, but Garcia applied a policy of incentives that resulted almost immediately in an improvement in the standard of living. For his part, Fernando Belaunde froze unpopular measures in 1980, looking to municipal elections at the end of that year. Only after they were held did he allow the "release" that Manuel Ulloa wanted and consequently managed to retain his popularity during the first phase of his term.

In other words, of the last three governments, only the current one has faced the crisis from the very start with

harsh measures that have a negative effect on the standard of living of the majority, at least in the beginning.

It might be argued that he had no choice and this is partly true. Taking a cold look at things, there was indeed no other path than to apply a harsh adjustment program in order to correct injustices inherited from the previous government. However, Fujimori could have begun his term with a new variation on heterodoxy, as some of the members of his first economic team suggested. Furthermore, it is likely that after a few failures, he would still have had to resort to a shock but in a much more difficult situation.

The battle against inflation has certainly not yet been won, but the majority of economists and public opinion think the program is well on its way.

In short, one thing to the credit of this government is that from the very beginning, it has followed a realistic economic policy, even if it did initially affect the population.

A second accomplishment was the makeup of part of the Cabinet, with Juan Carlos Hurtado serving as prime minister and head of the Ministry of Economy. The incorporation into the Cabinet of capable, responsible professionals from leftist groups and the inclusion of persons from various factions or independents was also correct.

The same is not true of the appointment of a military man in active service as minister of interior, however. The purge carried out in the police forces, where capable, honest officials fell along with the inept and corrupt, was undoubtedly one of the government's gravest errors in its first months in office. It is the result of the alliance Fujimori has forged with the Army or with one sector of that institution, to be more specific.

Lacking his own political base, the president could have opted for a somewhat sporadic alliance with some of the parties that made up the dissolved FREDEMO [Democratic Front], the tiny Socialist Left (IS), and perhaps factions of other groups, but he did not do so. He preferred to establish a rash connection with a group of military men, which grants him effective but in many ways dangerous support. Finally, he established a commitment with the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] which gives him votes but which, among other things, hinders the moralizing intentions of the current government.

Other ministers also lack capability for their posts, as in the case of Augusto Antonioli. He apparently possesses two virtues for the post of minister of justice: holding on to the post of minister-secretary and having been recommended by one of the president's groups of advisers, made up of (retired) Captain Vladimiro Montesinos and (retired) General Edwin "Cucharita" Diaz.

Fujimori has compartmentalized the spheres of government and handles different areas with dissimilar people unrelated to one another. He uses the scheme of the baseless triangle with which Julio Cotler described relations between landowners and peasants in the 1960's.

On the side of the advisers with a shady reputation, including Montesinos, is Hernando de Soto and the ILD [Freedom and Democracy Institute], providing valuable cooperation in different fields.

Fujimori's authoritarian tendencies are expressed in his desire to put people personally addicted to him in certain important posts. This resulted in the resignation of one of the best ministers, Carlos Amat y Leon, and explains, for example, why Jorge Chavez is president of the BCR [Central Reserve Bank] and Victor Paredes of the Chamber of Deputies.

This type of relationship is possible due to the weakness of institutions, and it simultaneously strengthens and reproduces that frailty. The lack of strong institutions so typical of underdeveloped societies paves the way for authoritarianism and arbitrariness.

In short, after three months of "Fujigovernment," we have some officials who are rock-solid and others who are shaky. This is neither as good as some enthusiasts expected nor as bad as skeptics predicted. However, to a great extent, it continues to be an unpredictable government, precisely because of the weakness of civil society and its institutions.

* Fujimori Decisionmaking Style Assessed

91P40062A Lima CARETAS in Spanish 5 Nov 90 pp 10-15, 83

[Editorial Report] Lima CARETAS in Spanish of 5 November on pages 10-15, 83 reports on the first 100 days of the Fujimori administration compared to the previous Garcia and Belaunde presidencies. The report rates the current administration's performance as "positive."

The report then reviews the president's decisionmaking style with regard to economic issues, and the time required before these decisions become official. The report concludes that Fujimori's decisionmaking process is "long and cumbersome," and that despite this he still changes "plans and decisions at the last minute." The report considers these last-minute changes as "typical" of President Fujimori.

Economist and former industry minister, Manuel Romero Caro, says that the administration's major problem is the "slowness in the decisionmaking process." Romero states that several weeks pass from the time errors are detected to the time adjustments are made, an "unnecessary delay that impairs the economic program's effectiveness." The report identifies inflation as the potential trouble spot that could erode Fujimori's "precarious institutional base" and popularity if inflation were to rise again.

Romero attributes the administration's lack of a timely response on economic measures to the small number of

officials applying the economic program, and the mistrust of Fujimori's closest advisors. The report then names the President's "inner circle" of advisors and describes how decisions are made. The Fujimori Advisory Committee ("FUJI-COAP") consists of Victor Diaz Lau, Victor Joy Way, Luis Baba Nakao, and Santiago Fujimori [brother of the president], according to the report. Requests for a decision by the president are first taken to this "informal group," which asks itself, "Who is behind this request?" The group's "excessive mistrust" and "technical ignorance" are cited as two reasons why decisions take so long, according to the report.

The report mentions that another method used by the president is to have his ministers privately present their proposals to him first, and not to the Council of Ministers. Then, Fujimori passes the proposal by his COAP, and, if this group has no objections, then the minister can present the proposal to the Council of Ministers for approval.

This makes the decisionmaking process "long and cumbersome," at least in economic matters, notes the report. Despite these delays, "the urgency of the economic situation" and the visit of IMF (International Monetary Fund) officials have "speeded up" the administration's decisionmaking process, concludes the report.

* APRA Senator Discusses Party Dissension

91SM0078B Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 28 Oct 90 p 8

[Interview with American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) Senator Jose Barba Caballero by Afonso Reyes Munante; place and date not given—first paragraph is EXPRESO introduction]

[Text] Young Aprista senator Jose Barba Caballero, member of his party's political committee, is known for his jokes (he once hid Deputy Benjamin Madueno's shoes) and for cultivating a frank, stinging language that does not respect party stalwarts and sometimes leads him to the brink of disciplinary sanctions, as when he said it was proper for President Alan Garcia to be judged harshly. It was reported that the CEN [National Statutes Commission] resolved to discipline him for unbrotherliness and disloyalty, but the threat did not frighten him and, on the contrary, sharpened his tongue. The following are a few of his jewels.

"It is a false rumor that the CEN asked that I be disciplined.

"It seems impossible that LAS [Luis Alberto Sanchez] would have stooped so low as to say that 'Either he (Barba) goes or I go,' and that thanks to that pressure, the CEN or a kind of night council met and decided my fate without hearing my side of the story. If this were so, it would mean that we have had a complete about face and are back to the law of the jungle.

"There are some congressmen not happy with my statements but that is a pity because, first of all, it is the party of Haya de la Torre, which has to demonstrate that it has governed cleanly and honestly and if someone has not done so, whether it be the president, a minister or prime minister, he should go to jail.

"Now then, if this position, which is the official position of the last congress, is called disloyal, as they have accused me of being, and if they are to use the term 'loyal' to describe intimate little dinners at the Palace to negotiate pardons, well, then I shall simply have to declare that I am a fervent partisan of disloyalty.

"This all began with my statements on the commissions investigating Alan Garcia, who should be investigated very thoroughly. His case should be the beginning of a new political tradition in Peru, in the sense that all former presidents should appear before the nation's Congress to account for their actions. This was taken as disloyalty. It was LAS who said this at a dinner at the Lung Fung for his birthday.

"I learned of the alleged decision by the CEN on Sunday, the 21st, on television. The CEN never summons or notifies. Its procedures are very modern and expeditious. I simply opted for the path of saying that this must be false. If it should be true, I cannot appear before a tribunal of animals who have renounced impartial trials, the role of just judges. A party cannot give that up. If it does so, it has obviously done an about face, returning to the path of beasts. They say I should be disciplined, but they neither accuse me nor notify me. I do not understand their game. LAS and Armando Villanueva were the instigators at the Lung Fung dinner.

"Armando and I exchanged words when I said it was not the right place to discuss such subjects and he told me that that was loyalty. I replied that it was adulation. Armando summoned all Aprista congressmen to meet with Alan the day after he was summoned by Deputy Olivera's investigative commission. I told them they would look ridiculous and Armando told me it was an act of loyalty. For me, it was nothing more than adulation."

[Reyes Munante] What will be discussed at the 17th Congress?

[Barba Caballero] It is a congress that will take up several issues. One of them is reorganization of the party, another is the nature of participation, and still another has to do with a new platform for Peru.

Restructuration means reorganization, adapting the party's organization to the new challenges posed by Peruvian society, particularly due to the results of the 1989 and 1990 elections. One special point will be a very harsh self-criticism of the five years of Aprista administration, a process of self-criticism in which anything can be criticized. At least that is what it says on paper.

[Reyes Munante] Is that part of the fight between Alanists [Alan Garcia] and Alvistas?

[Caballero] I do not view it as a fight in any way; I see perfect understanding in all domains. Here, all those who have shouldered responsibility in the government must be together.

The congress must find new spokesmen for the new APRA being built who are not involved in Alan Garcia's failure. This does not rule out the possibility that Meche Cabanillas will be APRA's general secretary. Meche's case is special because she was a competent minister who had nothing to do with the general line of the government and, at any rate, she was a minister who contributed to the party's prestige. Her case is truly exceptional. Meche's candidacy for the Office of Secretary General is still alive and strong and it is one of the cards APRA holds for the future.

Along with her are other men not known by the national press, for example, Yugar in Arequipa, Lozano in Piura, men of excellent qualifications awaiting an opportunity to show they are capable.

APRA is not limited to the men who handled the governmental apparatus. I am not in a race and have no vocation for permanent activism in the party. I only want to be a continuing critic.

Luis Alva Castro's career will have to be decided by the same congress. I do not know whether he is after reelection to the Office of Secretary General. Whether or not he is, represents a personal problem and his continuation in APRA leadership is a problem that will have to be decided by the same APRA national congress.

The 17th Congress began in early October and is scheduled to end on 21 February. Reports and motions are being debated throughout the republic, starting with provincial committees. All these reports and motions come to the congress that ends on 21 February. It is a special, doctrinary, ideological, and programmatic congress that is being held simultaneously at different locations at the present time. It concludes with the reading and discussion of reports from the entire country relating to the reorganization of APRA, a new program for Peru, and perhaps the election of new leaders, if the congress so decides.

Alan Garcia is campaigning. He has said he will not be a candidate in 1995, but all candidates say that. It goes without saying, but that is a long-term problem. It is a long time off. In the meantime, no one can be asked to give up his personal aspirations.

Alan has strength in the party which he has never lost. He is the dream of the presidency that has become a reality and one of the high priests in a church party which APRA represents. That is obvious.

If Alan Garcia decides to be a candidate for the presidency, it will be very difficult to stop him in the party.

I at least will be among those trying to stop him, I think unsuccessfully, but at least we will try. I think his experience should not be repeated in Peru.

* Emigration Detailed; 'Grave' Consequences Noted

91SM0078E Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 18 Oct 90 p D-1

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The largest number of persons emigrating to the United States between 1985 and July 1990, with the exception of 1989 (for which the Immigration and Naturalization Directorate has no official records), were students, totaling 26,961.

Second place goes to white-collar workers, who numbered 13,887. Professionals also viewed the country to the north as a "paradise" and 11,717 emigrated there. They included university graduates, persons in the professions, and distinguished scientists.

Even those with some kind of business here (businessmen and merchants) opted for the United States, and the number not returning between 1985 and 1990 was 3,025.

Another 41,346 Peruvian men and women of other occupations combined with other groups to total 92,707 of our fellow countrymen left in search of better opportunities.

It is estimated that the number of Peruvians in the United States exceeds 350,000, two out of three of them illegals.

Cities where the largest number of Peruvians reside are New York, California, Miami, and so on.

The difficult conditions under which top professionals and scientists work in science and technology are causing them to emigrate. Every week, one sees computer and telecommunications experts leaving in search of better opportunities.

So states Domingo Aliaga, director of the CONCYTEC [National Science and Technology Council] National Scientific and Technological Information and Documentation Center, indicating that the "brain drain" of scientists and research workers is so great that if corrective measures are not taken soon, the effect on development may be very great.

"For a scientist, it is very painful when his salary is one-sixth or one-tenth of what a service worker earns. Top-level professionals, particularly scientists and research workers who made sacrifices to earn their doctorates or master's degrees are poorly treated. This and other factors result in the exodus now taking place," he said.

Another cause of the phenomenon is the productive sector's failure to attract skilled personnel trained by the universities. There has also been a lack of investment in science and technology, especially in major projects.

Academic Decline of Universities

He also noted that the deterioration of institutions of higher learning over the past decade has meant that the

academic level has dropped to a point he labels as "disastrous," another factor contributing to the exodus of students.

"The institutional mystique has disappeared. For example, in order to get along, a professor or research scholar in a university has to work three or four jobs, resulting in a lack of caring for the institution," Aliaga noted.

Another factor is the backward curricula in many areas, which are over 20 years behind, he said. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

200 Student Demonstrators Protest Bush Visit

Burn Bush Effigy, U.S. Flags

PA0612182190 Paris AFP in Spanish 1704 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Caracas, 6 Dec (AFP)—Approximately 200 university students protesting U.S. President George Bush's 7 December visit burned an effigy of Bush and two U.S. flags at 1600 today, outside the Central University of Venezuela in Caracas. One of the flags depicted a skull and cross bones in place of the 50 stars.

The demonstrators left the university grounds, marching down Salvador Allende Avenue, chanting "Out of Latin America, Bush." They were heading toward the centrally located Venezuela Park.

A heavy police force, reinforced by Army helicopters, immediately cordoned off access to the park. The police are not allowed legal access to the university grounds without permission by the rector, left-winger Luis Fuenmayor.

Bush is expected to arrive in Caracas on the afternoon of 7 December for a 24-hour visit. Local authorities have forbidden all street demonstrations.

Fired at by Police

PA0612193390 Paris AFP in Spanish 1836 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Caracas, 6 Dec (AFP)—Three students and a university employee were shot at and wounded in Caracas this afternoon when the police repressed an attempted anti-U.S. demonstration the day before U.S. President George Bush is scheduled to arrive in Venezuela, university sources have reported.

"Policemen in civilian clothes, who entered the Central University of Venezuela [UCV] firing their arms, wounded several students," Federico Santana, director of the School of Journalism, told AFP.

The school is located at the entrance to the campus, where the police are banned from entering without permission from the rector's office.

AFP journalists saw police helicopters fire on the students, who fled, terrified, and tried to take refuge under the roofs covering the walkways while uniformed commandos fired tear gas grenades to dissolve the attempted demonstration. [passage omitted]

8 Injured in Protests

PA0712001290 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2324 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Caracas, 6 Dec (DPA)—Eight persons were injured, three of them seriously, during a protest march here against the visit that U.S. President George Bush begins here on 7 December.

A spokesperson for the student federation of the Central University of Venezuela [UCV] told DPA that policemen dressed in civilian clothes opened fire on a group of students who were burning an effigy of Bush on university premises near the downtown part of the Venezuelan capital. Fifty persons are under arrest at the Cotiza detention center of the metropolitan police, he added.

Other protests were also staged today in the Andean city of Merida, about 700 km from Caracas, and in Maracay, about 200 km southwest of the capital.

For his part, UCV student leader Luis Figueroa said that despite the police repression, the march accomplished its objectives. He said that new protest demonstrations are planned for tomorrow.

Bush will arrive in Caracas, the last leg of a tour of five South American countries, tomorrow afternoon. National Guard and Metropolitan Police forces have established tight security in the capital and police continuously patrol the streets.